

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

ETHICS OF NONCONFORMITY.

No. XVI.

SINGING AT WORK.

GIVE us, O give us the man who sings at his work! Be his occupation what it may, he is equal to any three who follow the same pursuit in silent sullenness. He will do more in the same time—he will do it better—he will persevere longer. One is scarcely sensible of fatigue whilst he marches to music. The very stars are said to make harmony as they revolve in their spheres. Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness—altogether past calculation its powers of endurance. And nonconformity, to be permanently useful, must be uniformly joyous—a spirit all sunshine—graceful from very gladness—beautiful because bright.

How can it be, some men will inquire, how can it be, whilst things are as they are? Look at the immense, the almost insuperable impediments in the way of ultimate success—the deep hold which the principle of church establishments has upon depraved human nature—the extent to which it has intertwined itself with our national customs, habits, and modes of thought—the vast worldly interests which are identified with its maintenance—the amount of popular ignorance to be cleared away—the inconsistency and apathy of the majority of those holding opinions which we deem to be scriptural—the dead set made by all parties against earnest activity, wherever it appears—look at all this, and is not sober sadness the most befitting state of mind? Ought we not to weep, rather than rejoice? Aye! we reply, so far as weeping will estrange you from idleness. But no further. With such a spectacle before him, a man may well be overcome, and, filled with regrets, may sit down for an hour or two, and pour out his passionate sorrow. But crying is not to be his habit. When his resolution has been taken to consecrate himself, according to his ability and opportunities, to the service of truth, he had much better be cheerful, and rather sing over the work which he can do, than vainly shed tears over that which he cannot. Briny drops are of no special use in this world, but as they relieve an overwrought excitement, or bear witness to the depth of our sincerity. They are not pearls—they possess no fertilising power—and when too abundant, they do but blind the eyes of those who shed them. But gladness brings with it no drawback. It makes the eye clear—the limbs active—the will tense. It is, in truth, the health of our moral nature.

And let men think what they will, the spirited nonconformist has reasons enough for habitual cheerfulness, if he will only give them play. It is something to have before one a fixed object of pursuit, an ultimate and clearly recognised mark, at which activity may aim. It is something to have arrived at that stage of earthly existence, where desire, and hope, and affection, and even conscience, cease to run hither and thither in uncertainty, roaming, in endless maze, in search of some definite point in the distant future towards which they can agree to walk in company. It is pleasant to have something settled to do—pleasant to feel assured that that something is worthy of our best efforts—pleasant to put forth such efforts on its behalf—and pleasant, now and then, to

note progress. If we are but ourselves in tune, we may make sweet music for our own entertainment, hideous as may be the howlings of the bitter blast without. Providence has mercifully associated enjoyment, not, indeed, with the mere possession of powers, whether bodily, mental, or moral, but with the fitting exercise of them. Nonconformity lying idle in the understanding may yawn with discontent—but nonconformity putting out its energies in useful exertion, will be as happy as a bird.

Nothing is more likely to produce, and to sustain, cheerfulness, than the conviction that everything we do is telling more or less for the welfare of mankind. And this reward have all the servants of truth, however humble their sphere. No act performed for her can be lost. We may be unable to follow it to its results—but that it has results, and those, too, beneficial in their character, is past all doubt. Good and evil—light and darkness—happiness and misery—are on this stage of human history, contending for mastery. To give a few blows, even if they be but few, and, to all outward seeming, puny, in aid of the former against the latter, is a satisfaction. All men may not be able to tackle Giant Despair—but they may yet be usefully engaged in dealing out her due to Mrs Diffidence. We may not all kill lions, and yet be competent to kill spiders. In the war with evil, no energy prompted by hearty good-will can be wasted. The very eagerness which misses its mark may shame the listlessness of some abler hand. Mistakes that prove seriously annoying to ourselves, may be teaching prudence to those who are around us. There is a sense in which it may be said that they who contend for the truth can do no wrong. They are adding something, by their every deed, to the power of right against might—making some contribution to the general stock—lending some assistance which will be an item in the sum total of final victory. The thought is an encouraging one—for no man likes to "beat the air"—and it is one which every nonconformist may wear as an amulet against depression of spirits.

Nor is this all. We have kept back the sweetest drop until the last. Triumph is certain. We have espoused no losing cause. In the body we may not join our shout with the victors—but in spirit we may even now. There is but an interval of time between us and the success at which we aim. In all other respects the links of the chain are complete. Identifying ourselves with immortal and immutable principles, we share both their immortality and immutability. The vow which unites us with truth makes futurity present with us. Our being resolves itself into an everlasting now. It is not so correct to say that we *shall* be victorious, as that we *are* so. When we will in unison with the Supreme Mind, the characteristics of his will become, in some sort, those of ours. What he has willed is virtually done. It may take ages to unfold itself, but the germ of its whole history is wrapped up in his determination. When we make his will ours, which we do when we aim at truth, that upon which we are resolved is done—decided—born. Life is in it. It is—and the future is but the development of its being. Ours, therefore, is a perpetual triumph. Our deeds are all of them component elements of triumph. Should we not sing, then, as we work—and set about our every duty with lightsome cheerfulness of heart? Where is he that can answer "No"?

THE COMING CRISIS.

THE student of history will find no principle more strongly or more consistently developed than the following—namely, that all the great changes in society, whether social, moral, or political, are the effect, not of the revolution, reformation, or convulsion which may usher them in, but of a gradual concentration of events, which had been accumulating and expanding, ages or centuries before—events resulting from some distant cause, which, though slow in its advance to maturity, yet travels on in its unerring and inevitable career through hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of years.

Ages of despotism and persecution, of tyranny and oppression, which reached their climax in the reign of the unhappy Charles I., produced the dreadful tragedy of that dreadful era. Centuries of ignorance and superstition, of priestly imposture and venality, which seemed to have swelled into irresistible power in the thirteenth and fourteenth

centuries, brought on the reformation. And so invariably is this found to be the case, that every species of wrong carries with it its own antidote, and hastens on to its downfall, as to compel us to the conclusion that, as in the material world every atom contains in itself the principle of slow, progressive, but certain decay, so the Almighty Ruler of the universe has ordered it that every principle of error, and every system which is not based on eternal truth, should in itself contain the elements of its own destruction.

That there is a crisis approaching in the church none will deny: on the nature of that crisis there are numberless opinions; nor can it be foreseen the exact form it will assume. But it is not difficult for the enlightened eye to detect, in the proud fabric of the church of England, the error which is shaking it to its foundation.

That this error is the unscriptural connexion between the church and the state we cannot for a moment doubt—a monstrous evil of the growth of fifteen hundred years, which, dating its commencement from the third century, has ever since been the most powerful weapon in the hands of the enemy of souls, the strongest barrier against the spread of the gospel in the world. The daily repeated nonsense that the reformation swept away the rubbish which popery had collected, and cleansed the church from the impurity she had contracted, is now understood, and almost worn out, whilst the rubbish that remains has become the subject of thought; and more sweeping and cleansing is felt to be absolutely necessary and inevitably certain.

That the reformation effected a glorious change, that it was the means of making the gospel known where it was before unknown, and throwing light on what before was total darkness, no one will deny; but that the reformation, as it is called, in England, as a political act, and merely as an alteration in the rubrics of the church, or as shifting the supremacy from the pope to the monarch, was in any way an improvement on the old idolatry, we will not admit. It was the act of the vilest sensualist and most inhuman tyrant that ever disgraced the throne of this country, in order to give full play to his passions of adultery, rapine, and murder.

Where are we to look for the grand reformation which is said to have taken place in the church of England at this memorable era? Shall we look to the great father of the movement—to Archbishop Cranmer, for it? But Cranmer's life, from beginning to end, was so totally averse to consistency and truth that we cannot, for a moment, think of him as a specimen and example of this mighty improvement, of which he is said to be the father. The pronouncer of divorce against two innocent queens, whom he knew to be innocent—the condemner and torturer of Lambert—the man who, with his principles, renounced his wife, and sent her, with her little ones, from the country, rather than sacrifice his station in the church and at court—surely such a man cannot be considered as the father of a great reformation! Shall we look for it among the clergy of that age? Men with minds so pliant that an act of parliament or a nod from the king could, at any time, convince them of their errors; and even persuade them to recant backwards and forwards, if necessary, for the preservation of their livings—who changed their opinions with as much ease as they changed their coats, or, rather, who had no religious opinions or principles at all, but were the servile slaves of ignorance and luxury—surely there was no reformation here. But it may be urged that the reformation was not fully established till the death of Mary, and that to judge of its effects prior to that period is to judge hastily and unfairly. To this we reply that the reign of protestant Elizabeth was as intolerant and cruel as that of catholic Mary; and, during that most disgraceful era, the reformed church of England condemned to death, expatriated, and imprisoned, hundreds of true believers. The act of uniformity was as bigoted and bloody as the famous six articles of Henry VIII.; and, even in after days, when the "reformed" dogmas had been tried—when time had been given them to prove their spirit, whether, indeed, they were the "doctrines of Christ, or the commandments of men"—what do we find the state of the church? Laud was as great a monster as Bonner—Charles I. was as bigoted and blind as Elizabeth, and only second in cruelty to Henry—

and the church of England, under these, her two superiors, was as dark and ignorant as ever.

If, then, we cannot find, in the reformers of the church of England, any trace of those grand principles which have since produced such great effects, where are we to look for them? Surely, to those heroic men, who, instead of pandering to tyrants, or squaring their principles by their interest, took their firm stand on the gospel of truth, and, bending the whole powers of their minds to discover what were its precepts and doctrines, steadfastly opposed everything not sanctioned therein. The "reformation" in the English church—the alteration of her ritual, and the shifting of her allegiance—these are not the source of the vast increase in religious knowledge since that period. To assert this would be to tear the laurel from the brow of the conqueror, and to fix it on the vultures who reveled in the slaughter without sharing the danger of the battle. The light which arose from the writings, the life, and the death, of Wycliffe, Jerome, and Huss, of Luther and Melancthon—the translation and distribution of the Scriptures which they effected—these, under God, are the causes of such great result, and which are, even now, working their way to still nobler ends.

Having briefly traced the origin and progress of this gigantic evil, let us consider how far the church of England is affected by it now; and whether it is, indeed, the error which will soon manifest itself more clearly in proving to be the cause of the coming crisis and the present division in the church. "How is it," it is triumphantly asked, "that the church is, of late years, so much improved—that her clergy are reformed—that there is now energy where aforesaid there was inactivity and deadness, and light where before nothing but gross darkness prevailed? how is all this to be accounted for, if the amended rubric, the reformed doctrines, and the altered allegiance, are only the errors of popery under a different name?"

To this we reply (and the truth of the answer must be manifest to all who will candidly study the subject), that this improvement is not the effect of any reformation in the doctrines or principles of the church of England, but to the diffusion of evangelical truth, in opposition to those principles and doctrines. How very obvious is this rendered by the fact, that those members of her community who profess evangelical truth, and take the scripture as the sole rule of their faith, unanimously refuse to adopt those principles and doctrines, as declared in their rubrics, in their strict and literal sense. Are not these reformed doctrines almost identically the same which Laud and Charles I. professed and enforced with torture, imprisonment, and death? Certainly, a more distinct and convincing reply cannot be given to a question than that which the church of England herself makes to this—when numbers of her members count Laud a saint, and all agree to honour Charles with the title of saint and martyr. Are not her principles of allegiance the same? This is so undeniable, that were a Nero, a Caligula, or a Henry VIII., nay were Herod of Jewry himself to rise from the dead and sit on the throne of England, the reformed church of England would be as ready with her allegiance as she now is. It is quite obvious, then, that the reformation which we now see among the clergy and the members of the church of England, is not the effect of any internal influence contained in the church herself, but of certain external and opposing principles which have been, and are, rapidly advancing to her entire overthrow as a political establishment.

Is it not, then, a strange thing, that vast numbers of good men should still continue in known error—should still support a system which they allow to be defective, and which they must feel to be rotten? Is it not strange, that though daily deploring and condemning as apostasy the conduct of those men who are contending for the consistent and literal fulfilment of the rubric, and for that alone, that they should still cling to the establishment which, they are utterly unable to deny, is the source and foundation of the apostasy they deplore, and of which these apostates are the consistent and the only consistent members? And stranger still is it, that although they feel themselves to be the supporters of unscriptural dogmas and erroneous traditions, they should nevertheless profess to take the scriptures for their guide and the rule of their faith! Let them take to those scriptures, and by them judge their baptismal and burial services, by them test the character and fitness for their work of three-fourths of their clergy, and by them decide upon the origin and purity of their state religion, to see if it is indeed the work of God, or whether it is a plant which God hath not planted, which shall be rooted up. They are in the condition of the pious members of an ungodly family, who, while they are sensible of the contamination arising from evil association, yet have not the courage, by professing Christ, to cast from them their patrimony, or sacrifice the friendship of their worldly connections. But let them beware lest, when the struggle comes, they are compelled to abandon that which they should long since have relinquished.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The *Bath Journal* of Saturday announces that a public meeting of the above society, at which Dr Cox and Mr Burnett, of Camberwell, were expected, was to be held in that city last night. The editor, in alluding to the subject says:—

"This is the first public meeting for such a purpose that has been called in this city, and we have, therefore, as yet, no test of public feeling on the subject. This association is, however, actuated by no party motive, and it has no party interests to contend against, except so far as the inalienable rights of all are infringed by class legislation. . . . We hope its advocates will have a fair hearing, and that the truths the great question of religious freedom will elicit will sink deep into the minds of numerous hearers, and be well established by reflection and sound reason. The members of the church in other parts of the empire feel that they are in a wrong position as the exactors of obedience to their creeds and formularies; they see that toleration in name with restrictive exactions of declarations, oaths, and penalties, &c., against their freedom, is a delusion, and this principle of truth is advancing rapidly; we doubt not that it will make progress in Bath, and we hope Tuesday will be an auspicious commencement."

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—We are glad to learn that the lectures now being delivered in various parts of the metropolis, under the sanction of this association, are attended by most respectable audiences, and that the talented lecturers are not labouring in vain: on the contrary, we rejoice to know that the state-church question is agitating quarters where, hitherto, the simple but glorious principles of nonconformity have been almost totally unknown or unappreciated. Dr Cox's lecture at Dr Archer's chapel, Oxenden street, on Wednesday last, was listened to with great pleasure, and excited the deepest interest. The effect produced by his eloquence and vigorous style was greatly enhanced by his summoning from the ranks of the state-church party, witnesses in favour of the voluntary principle: several of whom were amongst the most eminent writers of their day. At Coverdale chapel, Commercial road, on the same evening, an audience was assembled to hear the Rev. James Carlile explain and defend the voluntary principle. One powerful illustration of the beneficial effect of his advocacy of the claims of the association, was found in the number of persons who enrolled themselves as members at the close of the lecture. A similar result, we understand, followed the address by Dr Cox.—*Patriot*.

LECTURES AT BIRMINGHAM.—Mr Dawson, minister of Mount Zion chapel, Birmingham, is delivering a course of lectures which are well attended and highly spoken of. We extract the following sentence from his first lecture:—

"We believe no religion to be the true one, except it be of universal application; except it have something to teach concerning all duties. Get this religion thoroughly engraved into you, and it will manifest itself everywhere; many imagine that religion has nothing to do with the world's politics, and does not bear upon the world's social condition. What is the reason that politics are so bad as they are? Why has class interest borne the sway, rather than the eternal truths of God, but because men have not brought that, our holy religion, to bear upon every day life, lest their conduct, when tried by God's truth, should be found wanting? A Christian man should link everything which is going on in this world with God's truth, and try it thereby, for nothing becomes great till it is connected with God and with his truth; but Christian men are apt, too many of them, when they take up the newspaper to lay down religion; they are ready enough to see God in the chapel, or at home, but in the affairs of the world's great history, in the forum, the senate house, and in the market, they forget God, and seem to imagine that with these things he has nothing to do. Now this I say is a practical atheism—a not having God in all our thoughts."

CHURCH RATE MEETING AT OLDSWINFORD.—This extensive parish (of which the town of Stourbridge forms part) has been without a church rate for upwards of eight years, during which time the current expenses have been defrayed, partly by a voluntary rate, and partly by the churchwardens for the time being, out of their own pockets. In two or three cases the individuals filling that office have lost upwards of £30 by providing for the current expenses of their year of office. On Thursday last, however, a meeting of the parishioners was duly convened at the vestry. The rector, Mr C. H. Cranford, took the chair. An adjournment to the parish Sunday school was moved and carried, where, after a very stormy discussion, the majority of the meeting were declared to be in favour of a rate of 1d. in the pound, to meet the expenses of the current year. The number assembled at the meeting was certainly not less than 400. Upwards of £11,000 has been raised in the neighbourhood within the last few years for church purposes by voluntary subscriptions.

CHURCH RATES AT CAMBRIDGE.—Twenty-two individuals, most of whom are poor men, have been summoned before the borough magistrates for non-payment of church rates. The amounts in each case are very small, and the cost of the summons alone, in the great majority of instances, exceeds the amount of the rate.

THE DISSENSIONS IN THE STATE CHURCH.

MEETING OF THE BISHOPS.—His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has announced his intention to summon a meeting of the bench of bishops, in consequence of the unhappy schism which at present agitates the church of England, in order to deliberate and determine upon the rubrical observances to be enforced throughout the various dioceses of England over which his Grace has jurisdiction. It was originally intended that the meeting of the prelates should be held at Lambeth palace, in the approaching Ember week, previous to the ordinations; but the melancholy death of the mother of the Bishop of London has caused the postponement of the contemplated meeting.

As yet it is therefore undetermined whether the assemblage of the bench of bishops shall take place about the period of the annual convocation of St Paul's, or whether the synod shall take place at the commencement of the ensuing month of January. The issuing of the recent pastoral letter of the Bishop of Exeter has caused fresh excitement among the laity, and a new source of embarrassment to the church; it is, therefore, not at all improbable that an early day will be determined upon by their lordships, so that the feverish controversies relative to the gown and surplice, and the weekly offertory, may be finally disposed of. In connexion with the above subject, meetings of the rural deans of the various archdeaconries are now being assembled, and minutes of their proceedings will be forwarded to their respective bishops, in which will be explicitly stated the manner and form of celebrating divine service in the different parochial churches, as well as the compliance with the rubric by the clergy in their deanery. It is currently reported, with some degree of authority, that his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury will, at the deliberations of the episcopal bench, propose a conciliatory course to be pursued relative to the observance of the rubric, so that a due regard may be paid to the scruples of the laity relative to innovations in the church service which may give offence to the congregation. In this measure, it is also said, his Grace of York fully concurs.—*Times*.

ANTI-PUSEYISM IN THE CITY.—A meeting of the electors of the ward of Aldgate (preliminary to the annual civic elections) was holden on Wednesday. It was resolved that their representatives be instructed to oppose the grant of £200 towards the endowment of Cripplegate new church, and to support Sir Peter Laurie's amendment to postpone the consideration of the subject for one year. The members of the ward voted with Sir Peter Laurie, and in accordance with those instructions.

THE OFFERTORY AND THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE.—On Sunday last, the Bishop of London preached a sermon at St George's church, Hanover square, on behalf of the Visiting Association of that parish, and advocated the claims of the charity with his usual earnestness and eloquence, when, to the surprise of the congregation, it was found, on leaving the church, that no collection was made. It appears that the Bishop's intimation that the collection should be made from pew to pew while the offertory service was read from the communion-table was in opposition to the practice which had invariably been followed in that church; and, as the churchwardens did not feel justified in departing from the custom sanctioned by the congregation, the consequence was, that no collection was made, and the charity did not receive the slightest pecuniary advantage from his lordship's advocacy.—*Times*.

EXETER.—The *Western Times* says:—"The excitement caused by the Bishop's pastoral letter increases daily. All the leading parishes of Exeter have 'pronounced' against it, the staunchest churchmen taking the most active part. It is true that some few bigots and interested parties have been opposed to the general feeling, but, with very few exceptions of this description, the manifestation of opposition has been as universal as it has been decided. In the large and influential parish of St Sidwell, it would have been quite edifying to the Bishop if he could have seen the manifestations of feeling. It is true that he will get men like Capt. Trevelyan, of huge swallow, men like Mr Robert Cornish, who buried the late Dean, and have business reasons for being over clerical, to obey his orders, and take in as gospel all that he may be pleased to say. But the great bulk of the people will leave him no excuse for mistaking the popular feeling; and he has only to read the resolutions of their respective parochial meetings to discover that he hath committed—what with gentlemen of his kidney is considered far worse than a crime—an egregious—a booby blunder."

The *Times* of Monday says:—"The laity of Exeter seem determined to offer to the kingdom at large a powerful example of resistance to the schemes of the rubrical innovators. Since our last notice of their proceedings, we have to announce the concurrence of the following parishes in the measures of those who have taken the lead, and in which similar resolutions have been adopted, with one exception, unanimously:—St Thomas the Apostle, St Olave's Allhallows, St Stephen's, St David's, St Sidwell's and St James's. In these two last a further step has been adopted. By a majority of 120 to four, a letter has been addressed to the Bishop, signed by the churchwardens, in the name of the parish, respectfully but earnestly entreating him not to enforce the directions of his pastoral circular to the clergy."

On Wednesday last, a meeting of members of the church of England was held at Plymouth, when the room was quite full, and every one appeared to take the deepest interest in the subject about to be brought to their notice—"the consideration of the Bishop's pastoral letter." The mayor presided, and several spirited addresses were delivered. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"That while this meeting are disposed to receive with proper respect the decision of their Bishop in matters regarding the services of the church, and while they disclaim all desire to interfere with those observances and ceremonies which are the peculiar province of their clergy, they cannot withhold the expression of the deep regret with which they have perused the letter of the Bishop on 'Observances of the Rubric,' above referred to, recommending the introduction into the church services of forms and ceremonies, which if acted upon in this district, will inevitably lead to disunion and dissensions among clergy and laity.

"That this meeting desire to express their unfeigned attachment to the protestant religion, and its ceremonial

as by law established in the church of England, but they view with alarm and disgust the attempts at innovation recently introduced in that ceremonial, the tendency of which they verily believe to be an approximation to the obnoxious practices of the church of Rome, and as such opposed to every feeling of true protestantism, especially the insidious introduction of the offertory, and the use of the surplice in preaching the sermon, both of which are regarded as the symbols of a party in the church with whom the great body of true protestants can by no means agree."

We stated in our last that Dr Bull was about to publish a letter, in reply to the statement put forth on behalf of the Bishop, of what took place when the Bishop took council of the general chapter. An anonymous writer, signing himself "A Prebendary," published certain statements in Woolmer's paper, tending to reflect on the heads of the chapter, as having dealt uncandidly with the Bishop. It appears, from Dr Bull's letter, that the canons and archdeacons resisted the innovations of the Bishop, and expressed their earnest hope that he would not persevere in his threatened course. The Prebendary's letter, strongly suspected of being dictated or revised by the Bishop, having impugned the motives and misrepresented the conduct of the heads of the clergy, both Dr Bull and Chancellor Martin have come down upon this *soi-disant* prebendary with most crushing letters. The right reverend pamphleteer himself never administered such a dose of punishment, as he has received in the frank, manly, and straightforward letters of the canon and the chancellor.—*Western Times*.

CLERICAL SCRUPLES.—On Friday last, at Market Lavington, the following singular circumstances took place at the funeral of a respectable inhabitant, who in infancy had been received by baptism within the pale of the established church. The deceased individual had been accustomed to worship at the independent chapel, and during his illness naturally preferred the attendance and services of his own minister, Rev. C. P. Hobbs. Before his death he expressed a particular desire to be buried by the side of his relatives in the parish churchyard; but when the customary application was made, permission was given by the vicar, Rev. M. W. Mayow, only upon the condition that the body should not be taken within the precincts of the church, or that the widow should hereafter attend his own ministrations, insinuating, moreover, that the opportunity must be embraced for incorrigible dissenters to be made an example of. Under these circumstances the alternative was recommended and resorted to, that the usual religious offices should be performed at the chapel, after which, the vicar having previously acknowledged that he believed he had no right to object to such a proceeding, the funeral procession, preceded by the minister of the place, passed to the churchyard, where the corpse was quietly deposited in the chosen place of interment.—*Stamford Mercury*.

NEW ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT AT WOOLWICH.—The whole of the arrangements for making the new ecclesiastical district at Woolwich have been completed, and will be submitted to the Queen at the first council, and it is intended to designate it the district of St Thomas, Woolwich. The appointment of the clergyman, who will be denominated perpetual curate, in compliance with the act of parliament, will be made by the prime minister.—*Times*.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICE.—The bishops of London, Durham, Lincoln, and Ely, have given notice, that after the present year they will require from all candidates of the university of Cambridge applying to them for holy orders a certificate of their having passed the voluntary theological examination. The Bishop of Norwich has given a similar notice, but his lordship intends that it shall apply only to gentlemen seeking admission to the priesthood, and that it shall come into operation after August, 1845.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS TO OCEANIA.—The *Union des Provinces* announces the departure from Lyons for England of M. Epale, bishop of Sion and vicar apostolical of Western Oceania. The prelate took with him eight missionaries and several brothers of the Christian doctrine to assist him in his evangelical labours. He will first proceed to Sydney in New Holland, and thence repair to his diocese, which comprises New Guinea, the land of Papua, which is inhabited by a ferocious population, in whose country no Europeans have as yet made establishments; the Carolinas, the Archipelago of Salomon, and all the islands under the equator. M. Epale assisted, during several years, M. Pompallier in converting the natives of New Zealand.

THE FROST.—No arrivals have taken place during the week from any of the ports on the shores of the Elbe or Scheldt, both those rivers being blocked up completely with the ice, and effectually preventing all ingress and egress for vessels bound to and from those places. Neither the Batavier from Rotterdam nor the Antwerpen from Antwerp have arrived at the St Catherine's wharf at their usual time this week, and accounts have been received that they are both detained at the respective ports, and unable to leave in consequence of the severity of the weather. The vessel which left the river on Wednesday for Hamburg found it impossible to enter the Elbe, or proceed even so far as Cuxhaven, and has been obliged to return to London and re-land her passengers. In consequence of the detention of the Bataviers no arrivals of foreign cattle have taken place at the port of London during the week. The severe frost, however, was fully expected, which accounts for the very large importations of Dutch horned cattle and poultry of all kinds into the London markets for several weeks past.—*Times*.

Correspondence.

CONGREGATIONAL UNIONISM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—In the account of the proceedings of that most extraordinary meeting of that most extraordinary institution, the "autumnal convocation" of "the Union," at Norwich, a resolution was "carried unanimously," which has not, as far as I know, excited any remark, although it appears to me exceedingly ominous, both in itself and in connexion with other movements of that body. It is to the following effect:—"That it appears to this meeting highly expedient that the correspondence of our various societies should be addressed to the deacons of the churches, as well as to the pastors; and that, therefore, the committee of the Union be authorised by this meeting to issue a circular to the pastors, requesting the names and addresses of their deacons, in order to carry out this suggestion."

Now many may see no great evil in this resolution, and perhaps my thinking that there is evil in it may arise from the habit into which I have got, with many others, of looking with suspicion at the transactions of the Union. But let me ask your readers one or two questions respecting it. What are "deacons?" Are they more or other than secular officers of churches? Is there any passage that describes their duties besides the sixth chapter of Acts? and does that assign them any charge beyond the care of the poor? There is a strong tendency in the present day to erect deacons (and I might add pastors too) into a position which has not been appointed to them by God. And this tendency appears in the above resolution. Again—What has any one to do with the deacons of a church but itself? Who gave the Union authority to require their names and addresses for the purpose of sending their correspondence? They may inquire, of course, if they choose. No one can prevent such questioning. But they may also be told that the Union has nothing to do with deacons, and that deacons have nothing to do with its "correspondence." I should advise all ministers, on the receipt of the inquiries, quietly to put them behind the fire.

This is only one way in which the Union is creeping over our churches, and bringing us into a state having none of the advantages, but all the evils, of presbyterianism. Depend upon it, sir, that the sooner the Union is put an end to the better for our independency, and all the rights and liberties allied to it. This is the growing conviction of many intelligent ministers, and a large number of intelligent laymen. The prospect is getting brighter than it was. True, it seemed once as if "all the world was wondering after" the Union. Many who first condemned it joined it, and many more became milder in their speech. Nor is it marvelous. There are reasons for identifying one's-self with a gigantic conference besides the wise and holy. Great men join to get power, little men to get protection. It is not pleasant to be looked upon with daily suspicion, to be regarded as an "impracticable" man, to lose the cordial greeting and fraternal fellowship which such isolation obliges the loss of. The pressure from without will often prove too much for men in such circumstances. Doubtless this is one great reason why the Union has received such support. But the eyes of men are beginning to get opened to the impossibility of reconciling the freedom of churches and of men with the practical operations of such a confederation. Even one of the hosts of the Union at Norwich, the Rev. A. Reed, uttered some manly hints as to the danger of presbyterianism. Thanks to the Union, the change of public feeling is chiefly attributable to its own proceedings. What it has not done, and what it has done, have both contributed to its production. It has promoted a multitude of bad speeches, and some few good dinners; it has published a hymn-book, in which many of the hymns are altered, and all that they have altered are spoiled; it has promised to alter, and doubtless to spoil, Dr Watts; it has sent some men to see the American churches, who brought back, if they did not take out, diplomas; it has printed some tolerably decent introductory discourses as tracts: All this it has done, but it has, on the other hand, not performed one act of real and tangible service to the churches; it has not issued a work of any importance; while it has brought forward some propositions, and hinted at more, that no sound independent can approve of; and all its doings are in the course of that spirit of centralisation which is the popular spirit of the day, and as pernicious as it is popular, whether in politics or religion. No wonder that presbyterians are asking, "Aha! what is your Union about?"—no wonder that Dr Chalmers thinks we are getting up to his system of church polity—no wonder that the real friends of congregationalism are disgusted. Well, we must wait patiently. The end will come, spite of the tears of Mr Wells, and the eloquence of Mr James, and the facts of Mr Blackburn—spite of secretaries, "Witnesses," doctors, and all. May it come soon! I am, dear sir, yours affectionately,

ONE WHO REJOICES MORE AND MORE
IN INDEPENDENCY.

DISSENTERS' INSURANCES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—On reading the reply of the Secretary to the Sun Fire Office to the admirable letter of Dr Epps, it struck me, as it appears to have done your correspondent "J.C.," that the Fire Office had constituted the Dr's a special case. I therefore wrote to the agent here, requesting him "either to procure me a policy without the obnoxious clause, or otherwise a similar letter of indemnity." In his reply, now before me, he states, "I have received instructions from the Sun Fire Office to cancel the clause you refer to upon all policies issued by me." We might be pardoned our error as to the speciality of Dr Epps's case; but I think now it is unquestionable, that in our *bond fide* transactions of fire insurance, with an office of unimpeachable honour, we are met in a business-like spirit, and assured that the objectionable clause is expunged from all policies now in existence. Such is my interpretation, and on it I shall act, in confidence that the Sun Office knows nothing of dissenters or non-dissenters, but is a house of business, carrying on its affairs for the mutual benefit of itself and its customers.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Coventry, Dec. 13th, 1844.

N. BUCKLEY.

MR DAVID SALOMONS AND THE CITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

"Mr M'Cree, of Boroughbridge, moved the fourth resolution in the Gateshead Religious Freedom Society, viz.:

"That the exclusion of David Salomons, Esq., from the corporation of London, after his election by his fellow-citizens, on the ground of his being a Jew, is a disgrace to that city, and to the empire of which it is the metropolis; and the meeting feels bound to enter its most solemn and emphatic protest against so bigoted and unchristian a proceeding."

"The resolution was seconded by Mr Greaves, and passed unanimously."—*Nonconformist*, Dec. 11, 1844.

SIR—Allow me to correct the error which the gentlemen who have passed the above resolution have committed, and to direct their censure to where it ought to be placed.

When the Test and Corporation acts were repealed, the act that repealed them, the 9 Geo. IV., c. 17, imposed the following test in lieu of the sacramental test upon persons elected to the office of mayor, alderman, recorder, town clerk, or common councilman, viz.:

"I, A B, do solemnly, sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare, upon the true faith of a Christian, that I will never exercise any power, authority, or influence, which I may possess by virtue of the office of —, to injure or weaken the protestant church as it is by law established in England, or to disturb the said church, or the bishops and clergy of the said church, in the possession of any rights or privileges to which such church, or the said bishops and clergy, are or may be by law entitled."

And the 2nd section enacts that every person so elected "shall within one calendar month next before or upon his admission into any of the aforesaid offices make and subscribe the above declaration."

The court of aldermen are for this purpose merely the ministers of the law; they are bound to require the declaration; and though several of the aldermen thought fit to express their opinions and their readiness to dispense with the law, it is obvious they would have acted unlawfully if they had done so.

In the year 1835 Mr Salomons took the opinion of the court of King's bench on this very question; and a court of error before which it came decided that the declaration must be taken *before* admission.

Unless, therefore, we should contend for the dangerous doctrine of allowing magistrates to become legislators, which would make them so many despots, the censure should be directed against the legislature, and the "compulsory church" influence which induces such enactments.

It is important to the progress of rational liberty that we should look carefully to the causes of those errors which we censure, as we otherwise perpetuate wrongs instead of aiding to remove them.

Deeply regretting that such is the law, and trusting that the gentlemen who proposed these resolutions will see that the "disgrace" belongs to parliament, and not to the city of London, and petition for a repeal of the law,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Cheapside, December 16, 1844. W. H. ASHURST.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE "CHRISTIAN WITNESS."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Your last number contains the letter of "A Countryman," which seems to require some notice from me. The first paragraph sets forth that I publish of the *Christian Witness* "only a certain number of copies with advertisements," in order, by the saving of paper and press-work, to increase the "profit for the decayed ministers." The answer to this is, simply, that there is not one syllable of truth in it.

Our regular demand is upwards of 30,000; on this number we can count with certainty; this number, therefore, we always print; never less, but sometimes more, on some occasions 2,500, and on others, 5,000 more. On some occasions the type has been re-set, and on others kept standing.

Being fully able to guarantee 30,000, with that number we go forth to solicit advertisements, for that number advertisers pay, and that number they uniformly receive. But for second or more editions, which may or may not occur, or, if printed, may or may not sell, they are not charged, they would not submit to be charged, and they are entitled to nothing beyond their stipulation. At this moment the *fifth* impression of the first number is being printed off; if "A Countryman" had advertised in the first, would he have expected a reprint of his advertisement?

The "Countryman's" last paragraph is more remarkable for its cunning than for its charity, seeing the circulation is so vast, and the "advantage of suppressing them (the advertisements), consequently, so great," he asks, "What kind of guarantee is offered to an advertiser that his notice will appear in 15,000, or 10,000, or even 5,000 copies?" The man who can talk after this fashion deserves no answer, and he has utterly forfeited all right to demand any. He seems to keep no other society than that of sharpers, and to be both blind to the principles, and dead to the motives, which actuate honourable men.

To say nothing of my own character, is no guarantee supplied by the committee of the Congregational Union, by the editor, and by the printers? These parties are fully as cognisant as myself of all that is done in the matter. To you, sir, all this must be clear; and it is not without some surprise that I found you admitting a communication so abounding in malice, and so wanting in reason.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN SNOW.

Paternoster row, December 17th, 1844.

ANOMALY IN THE CUSTOMS.—A cargo of oranges, consisting of upwards of 700 boxes, has been imported, *via* Southampton, by a merchant in the city, and these, after being passed at the outport, have been re-measured here for higher duties, on the ground that they exceed the measurement set down in the customs scale for certain duties. The table of customs' duties provides, that on boxes of oranges and lemons, not exceeding 5,000 cubic inches, the duty, when from foreign countries, shall be 2s. 6d.; but when above, and not exceeding 7,300 cubic inches, the duty shall be 3s. 9d. The hardship, therefore, is felt in having to pay fifty per cent. more for a few inches when above 5,000, and 100 per cent. when above 7,300 inches, which ought to contain double the quantity of fruit to be subject to that extra impost.—*Chronicle*.

The Complete Suffrage Mobement.

Birmingham, Dec. 16, 1844.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at 37, Waterloo street, Birmingham, on Monday—Mr Sturge in the chair.

Letters were read from London, Edinburgh, Doncaster, Paxford, and Alnwick.

The CHAIRMAN laid before the meeting the resolutions of the council of the Edinburgh Complete Suffrage Union, noticed last week; and, after some considerations, the Secretary and Treasurer were appointed a sub-committee to draw up a circular in reference to them, to be submitted to the next meeting of the council.

The SECRETARY reported that an address had been sent to the electors of Dartmouth, urging them to support no candidate who would not vote for complete suffrage.

METROPOLITAN COMPLETE SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the members and friends of this newly-organised association was held at Hart's hotel, Aldersgate street (Mr Ebenezer Clarke, of Snarebrook, in the chair), on Monday evening, to receive the report of the provisional committee, and to consider the draft of rules which they had prepared. After considerable deliberation, and several important suggestions had been embodied, the rules were adopted. It was determined to hold the first general meeting on Monday, the 27th January, 1845, for the purpose of electing the officers for the ensuing year, and the transaction of other business; the arrangements for which devolve on the provisional committee, who were re-appointed until their successors shall be chosen. Advertisements were ordered to be inserted in the *Morning Advertiser* and *Nonconformist* newspapers.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

By the Britannia steam packet, which arrived at Liverpool on Monday morning, at ten o'clock, having on board fifty passengers, New York and other American papers to the 1st instant have arrived. The Congress was to meet on Monday, the 2nd inst, and President Tyler was to send down his last annual message on Tuesday, the 3rd. Wanting this document, the intelligence brought by the Britannia consists more of speculation and reports than important facts. The final result of the elections was as follows:—Electoral votes for Clay, 105; for Polk, 170: majority for Polk, 65.

The *New York American* of the 30th ult. says, "Attention will be turned chiefly in regard to the topic of Texas, of which the annexation will, it is expected with great probability, be urgently pressed. As to the expediency of occupying the Oregon territory, too, it is supposed, there will be held very decisive language; and these two topics, connected with the obnoxious proceedings of some British cruisers towards American vessels on the coast of Africa, constitute matter which an unfriendly tone might exaggerate into serious discords."

We have little news from Canada. The Governor-general's opening speech was anxiously awaited. No official return of his majority in the legislature has arrived. A seizure of arms had been made on the Lachine canal.

The *New Orleans Picayune* of the 17th ult. gives the following summary of Mexican intelligence, the date of which is from the city to the 2nd:—

"We have received advices from the city of Mexico, as late as the 2nd instant. The most important intelligence we have yet read is the refusal of the Chamber of Deputies to vote the loan required by the Mexican Executive for carrying on the campaign against Texas. A majority of the committee to which the subject was referred, reported that the Executive should be authorised to obtain a loan of three millions of dollars. On the 16th ult., this policy was strenuously advocated by Senors Tornel and Rodriguez, and was as earnestly opposed by Senors Sagaceta and Rosa. The vote was taken on the 16th of October, and the Chamber then refused, by a majority of 44 to 17, to entertain the *projet de loi* recommended by the committee. The debate on the occasion is said to have been full of interest. The house was filled with spectators, who applauded the different speakers in their turn most vociferously."

The Texan Congress was to meet on the 2nd instant.

It is reported in Galveston, by a gentleman just from the west, that intelligence had reached San Antonio that all Northern Mexico along the Rio Grande is now in a state of revolt against the dictator. The report, as brought by a Mexican major, who represents himself as having deserted from General Woll's army, is, that Arista is now marching for the city of Mexico with an army of 17,000 men—that he is already beyond the mountains—and that his numbers are daily and rapidly increasing by fresh recruits from all the surrounding country. It is stated that the spirit of revolution is universal and overwhelming. The report appears to have obtained but little credence, and occasioned no great excitement.

FRANCE.

The Paris papers are destitute of political news. The Duke of Aumale, with his young duchess, arrived in Paris on Friday evening. In the course of the same day the King and Queen of the Belgians also arrived, so that Louis Philippe is, at the present moment, surrounded at the Tuilleries by all the numerous branches of his family.

A letter from Constantinople of the 22nd, says, "Sir Stratford Canning has just gone from here in a ship. It is not known whether he has gone on a trip of pleasure, or has left in consequence of the

differences which have arisen between him and the Divan."

The weather had changed in its character. On Friday night a thaw commenced, which continued up to the hour of post on Saturday.

The papers of Sunday say that a report is very current that the King of Prussia has determined definitely to give a constitution to his kingdom. "Not only," says the *Siecle*, "is this resolution taken, but it has been communicated to the different chancelleries of Europe. The work is not only a project, but it is already finished. The bases of the constitution are settled. All that is now to be done is to promulgate it, and to put it in operation."

The *Constitutionnel* says, that the marriage of Queen Isabella II. with the Count of Trapani is finally determined on; and that the affair has been definitively arranged by the Prince of Joinville and the Duke d'Aumale during the recent visit to Naples.

SPAIN.

Accounts from Madrid, of the 9th inst, state that the Senate had referred the constitutional reform to a committee, which was to report upon the subject; but as it was known that the Senate would make no amendment of any consequence in the bill, its proceedings were regarded as of very little interest. The *Chronicle* says:—"Matters do not go quite so smoothly with General Narvaez in Madrid as in the northern provinces. In Old Castile and in the Basque provinces he and his tools are allowed to shoot to their hearts' content. General Breton has already shot twelve of the unhappy insurgents in Hecho and Anzo without trial, and no questions asked. More executions are to follow, and the crime of over humanity, which, in the case of Generals Oribe and Bayona, led to their dismissal, is likely to be religiously avoided by their successors. In Madrid, however, matters go otherwise. Colonel Rengifo, Captain Garcia, and Dr Arilla, were condemned a few days ago to death by a court martial, composed of such materials as Narvaez delights in, for a conspiracy which is believed never to have existed; and some eight or ten others were sent to the galleys for the same crime. Colonel Rengifo and his companions in misfortune were to be executed on the 9th, but, unhappily for Narvaez, the President of the Supreme Tribunal of War and Marine declared the proceedings illegal (and for his honesty he has been dismissed), and the Court of the Audiencia quashed the whole of the proceedings, so that the lives of these unfortunate individuals are saved for a time at least, although it is probable that the unscrupulous personages in the cabinet will still succeed in destroying the victims of their vengeance."

Letters from Saragossa state that two hundred persons had been seized in that town on the 26th ult., eighty of whom were to undergo an immediate trial by court martial. Zurbano's house had been burnt down by order of the local authorities.

PORTUGAL.

Private correspondence states, that the Cortes were to be closed at the latter end of last week, to be re-opened on the 1st of January. The financial accounts are in a state of forwardness, approaching completion, owing to the vigorous administration of Count Tojal. The budget will show a considerable excess of receipt over expenditure. On three occasions during the past week they have not mustered in sufficient numbers to form a house; in regard to which the President, finding himself in a majority of one, has had to open and close the session in the same breath. In vain has he appealed to their sense of decency and decorum; and equally fruitless were his threats of more stringent measures being applied to effect their due appearance in the Chamber. The fastidious of them have all grown sick, and the remainder of the contumacious more ingeniously absent themselves without leave.

In the Peers, the committee of Finance has given in its report on the project of the additional five per cent. impost, recommending its adoption without any alteration from the form in which it comes from the deputies.

SWITZERLAND.

Letters from Berne, of the 6th inst, state that, on receiving intelligence of the revolt at Willisau, the council of state of the canton had assembled, and instantly gave orders to three battalions of infantry, three companies of carabineers, two of artillery, and a squadron of cavalry, to march to the frontier of the canton of Lucerne. It was inferred, from the adoption of this measure, that the government of Berne intended to support the opposition to the jesuitical party at Lucerne, and avenge itself for the moral defeat which it had experienced in May last, during the anti-radical reaction in the Valais. On the 6th the troops had already commenced their march.

Intelligence from Lucerne, of the 8th, says:—"This morning a patrol party attacked a body of liberals; some soldiers were wounded. At the first shot all the avenues of the Hotel de Ville were barricaded, and the place was put in a state of defence. Several arrests have taken place."

The *Constitutionnel* has the following from its correspondent at Berne, dated the 9th:—

"An estafette arrived at ten o'clock this morning, bringing the sad news of the defeat of the liberals at Lucerne. The insurrection commenced yesterday morning, and at five in the afternoon all was terminated; the insurgents, having no artillery, were compelled to retreat; in an attack upon the arsenal several of them were killed. Amongst their chiefs, Dr Steiger and Captain Auf der Maur were taken prisoners, Colonel Kuggenbuhler and the Ex-coun-

cillors Baumann and Isaac succeeded in getting out of the town with several of their partisans. The struggle would, it was thought, continue in the open country, but, notwithstanding the aid of the volunteers of Argau, Soleure, and Bale, there were slight hopes of success. A letter of the government of Lucerne to that of Berne, and dated yesterday, announces its triumph over the rebels; but, in order to prevent further risings, it demands federal armed assistance from the cantons of Uri, Schwyz, Unterwald, and Zurich."

The *Basle Gazette* of the 10th inst announces that, on the preceding day, everything was perfectly tranquil at Lucerne. The liberal bands had dispersed, and Professor Herzog, with about twenty students, had taken refuge at Zofingen in the Rösslo. The *Basle State Gazette* of the 10th inst announces that the band commanded by Colonel Kuggenbuhler and M. Baumann, after having attacked a battalion of militia at the bridge of Emmez, had dispersed. The *Zurich New Gazette* states, that the Executive Council of that canton, having been officially informed that the government of Lucerne had succeeded in suppressing the movement of the factious, had no further occasion for the assistance demanded of the other cantons. The Burgomaster and the Executive Council of Zurich had addressed a proclamation to the inhabitants, to inform them officially that order had been restored at Lucerne. The insurrection is now considered virtually at an end.

TAHITI.

A letter from Tahiti, dated May 25, says—"We have had another desperate attempt to get the Queen into the power of the French. A party of chiefs were sent on board the English ship to try and persuade her to go on shore. These gentlemen came, accompanied by a French officer. It was insisted that the communications which they wished to make should be in writing; and, notwithstanding the short time they were on board, they contrived to annoy the Queen so much that she was obliged to go below to avoid them. The ill-feeling entertained by the French against the English is almost incredible. The officers of marine got up a play (at which the governor showed himself), in which the character of the English navy, and particularly that of Sir C. Napier, was held up to ridicule and contempt. They made Sir Charles a coward, fool, and rogue. The missionaries have become quite useless here, there being no natives left at home to whom they may preach. The governor is in the habit of amusing the gentlemen and officers who dine with him by having, after dinner, the native girls collected at the front of his house (formerly Queen Pomare's residence), who there exhibit their old obscene dances. At the moment I am now writing there is not a modest woman in the town, and hardly a Tahitian man—all have left for the Tahitian camp. There is a public room belonging to the officers at the barracks, in which all kinds of wickedness are carried on every night: in short, the whole place is demoralised and upset. Our poor friend the Queen is still with us. She is anxious to be put on the same footing as the King of the Sandwich islands."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

BELGIUM AND THE ZOLLVEREIN.—BRUSSELS, DEC. 8.—The report of M. de Decker, in the name of the central committee appointed to examine the plan of law relative to the treaty of commerce and navigation concluded between Belgium and the Zollverein, is published this morning. From this document it appears that the first, fourth, and sixth sections unanimously expressed their regret that the Zollverein has not been granted to Belgium, for transit advantages equivalent to those granted by this country. The central section also joined, and unanimously, in the manifestation of this regret. By a provision of Article 24, it is stipulated that cotton fabrics manufactured in the estates of the Zollverein shall not, during the term of the treaty, be subject, on their entrance into Belgium, to a duty exceeding that at present in force. The first and fourth sections expressed the opinion that this paragraph, though of little importance to Germany, is calculated to give umbrage to other countries with which it is important to Belgium that she should maintain friendly relations. The following are the words of the report:—"The Central Section sets out with the principle that, in a convention of this nature, it does not necessarily follow that either the one or the other of the contracting parties should triumph or suffer. The Section has weighed the material benefits and disadvantages of the treaty, in so far as they are susceptible of a positive appreciation; but, viewing the treaty under another light, it may also be regarded as an act of high policy, destined to consolidate our nationality, and containing the germ of a system the development and justification of which are reserved for the future." All the sections approved the treaty as a whole—one only abstained from coming to the vote. In the Central Section five members voted for the adoption of the treaty as a whole; one member voted against it, and another, in consequence of indisposition, did not vote at all. The Central Section consequently proposed its adoption.

RAILROADS IN RUSSIA.—The *Prussian Universal Gazette* of the 5th instant states that the Russian government is about to contract a loan of 412,000,000 silver roubles, of which the produce is to be employed in the construction of railroads between St Petersburg and Moscow. The interest of the loan is to be payable from the 13th of October next, and a sinking fund is to be established for the liquidation of the principal.

ALEXANDRIA.—We are returning with rapid steps to the system of monopolies. Egyptian trade will be soon exclusively in the hands of three Grecian houses, who are in favour with Mehemet Ali. Eu-

ropeans established in our town hope that their governments will oppose this system, so injurious to European trade in general. The French and English consuls will make energetic representations to the viceroy, and probably with success. One of the above houses has bought the whole of the saltpetre which will be manufactured for two years. It has also taken to farm with another all the senna which is to be sold in Egypt. The second house has taken the whole of the arabic gum, whilst the flax has been given to the third. Thus dividing among themselves all the trade of Egypt; although the Pacha has often promised that he would not sell the products of his country except by free auction, as formerly. It is to be observed, that the chief of these Grecian houses are consular agents; they ought to defend the general interests of Europe, but, in pursuing this course, they are acting against its best interests.—*Augsburg Gazette*.

The *Gazette of Königsberg* publishes a proclamation, addressed to the students of the university of that city, urging them to abolish the practice of dueling, as had done the students of Heidelberg, and to establish courts of honour for the settlement of their quarrels. Similar steps towards this object had previously been taken on the occasion of the commemoration of the foundation of the university, but without success. Königsberg is one of the cities of Germany where duels are most frequent.

GREAT INDIAN RAILWAY.—Of the many gigantic schemes of our day, not the least gigantic is certainly that of the great Indian railway company, of which a prospectus lies before us. The chief line would run from Bombay to the line of Godavery, and terminate on the eastern coast, near Coringa. In connexion with this, three transverse ones are proposed; one from Poona to Beejapoor, another to Aurungabad, a third from Hyderabad to Nagpoor, crossing the main line. These would become the channels of the great trade running from the interior to the coast. The proposed lines are 1,300 miles in length, and would require a capital of £5,000,000 sterling. It is needless to point out the immense political and military results which must flow from the completion of this and similar projects in India, the task of holding large countries by a small force being facilitated incalculably by the rapidity of railroad communications. Indeed, our best chance of holding India, and rendering it profitable, seems bound up with the introduction of these grand improvements. Another, and no unimportant consideration is, the finding in our own colonies a profitable employment for that capital, so much of which has been jeopardied and thrown away on the bad faith of foreign states.—*Morning Chronicle*.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND THE BRAZILS.—The *Constitutionnel* states that Viscount d'Abrantes, the envoy extraordinary of Brazil to Prussia, had proposed to England and France, in the name of his government, to join in an armed intervention to put a period to the war between the Eastern and Argentine republics, and enforce the stipulations guaranteed by the Brazils and France. That journal anticipates no favourable result from the mission of M. d'Abrantes. "He has seen," it says, "Lord Aberdeen, and found that minister animated with the same dispositions which he had manifested to M. Varela. Lord Aberdeen is said to have thrown upon France, which is more interested in the question, the entire responsibility of the unaccountable and often odious conduct held by the two nations during two years on the banks of the Plata. His lordship, moreover, expressed his readiness to interfere if France would join England." "M. Guizot," the *Constitutionnel* says, "will content himself with repeating to the negotiator his declaration to the Chambers, 'that the quarrel of Montevideo and Buenos Ayres is a civil war between two republics, or rather between two presidents of the same republic, Oribe and Ribera, and that it behoves France to keep aloof from the war, and await the event.'"—*Times*.

THE TRADE OF TRIESTE.—The *Moniteur* publishes accounts of the commercial state of Trieste, from which it appears that the entire of the exchanges between that harbour and foreign countries, during the first half of 1844, amounts to 94,000,000*fr.*, or 300,000*l.* less than in the corresponding period of 1843. The imports present in 1844 a diminution of 2,365,000*fr.*, but the exports had increased by 2,066,000*fr.* In the same interval 797 vessels, measuring 120,072 tons, entered the harbour, and 748, measuring 94,383 tons, cleared; showing a decrease in the navigation of 99 vessels and 25,499 tons as compared with 1843. The coasting trade employed 42,000 tons more than during the preceding year.

THE HAMBURG MAIL.—In consequence of the Elbe being full of ice, the Hamburg mail is to be conveyed by way of Rotterdam.

DREADFUL FIRE IN PARIS.—At three o'clock on Sunday morning a fire was observed to break out at No. 23, Rue Cadet, which presented a most alarming appearance. M. Gore, the commissary of police of the district, immediately proceeded to the spot, and having procured the assistance of a detachment of the 47th regiment, who were quartered in the neighbourhood, every effort was made to arrest the progress of the flames. Their exertions, however, were unavailing, and the fire, after having consumed the upper part of the house, penetrated into the vast wine stores of M. Buhner, situated on the ground-floor. M. Buhner had hardly time to save his papers and account books. The efforts of the firemen were confined to the preservation of the adjoining houses; but, notwithstanding their exertions, the fire extended to some of the adjacent dwellings. At nine o'clock, as one party of firemen, exhausted with fatigue, had been relieved by a party from the Rue Vieux Colombier, a fresh disaster added to the calamity. A wall fell out into the street, and crushed

several persons. The dead body of a fireman was withdrawn from the ruins, together with ten wounded, two of whom shortly afterwards expired. A municipal guard had his foot crushed, and several persons of the neighbourhood, who had exerted themselves most heroically, were more or less wounded. At two o'clock the firemen at length became masters of the fire, but it was found necessary to continue to pump water on the smoking embers during the night. The damage is estimated at 300,000*fr.* (£12,000).

EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.—Religious education is now completely organised in the Russian empire. There are four districts of teaching, having each their academy—at St Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, and Kasan. Under the academies, there are 45 seminaries, 173 circle and 190 parish schools. In 1842, the total number of pupils was 60,368. There are in the empire 34,415 churches of the Greek creed, besides 9,059 chapels. The number of clergymen is 117,445. There are seven metropolitans, twenty-eight archbishops, and twenty-eight bishops, 2,542 ecclesiastical tribunals. The total income of the church consisted, in 1842, of 3,042,754 silver roubles. The number of the members of the Russo-Greek church is 44,102,195 individuals.

TRADE OF RUSSIA.—The exports of Russia in the year 1843 consisted of 82,565,600 silver roubles, and the imports amounted to 75,026,399 roubles, being a difference of 7,537,201 roubles in favour of exports. The receipts of customs consisted of 29,678,609 roubles.

MURDER OF MR THORN.—At St Omer, on the 28th November, M. Sallior, late commissary of police at Calais, was tried for the murder of Mr Thorn, a surgeon. On the night of the occurrence, the two, who were intimate friends, dined with a party of Englishmen, and M. Sallior drank to excess. Mr Thorn conveyed him from the party to the police-office; they were seen amusing themselves there; suddenly Thorn fell, and was found to be stabbed with a mortal wound. Such is the substance of all that is known as to the alleged murder. For the defence, it was contended that M. Sallior was not used to drinking, and was then in such a state as to remember nothing of what passed; that the wound might have been inflicted by Thorn himself, or that, more probably, he fell upon the dagger, which was found among some papers, in an upright position, streaked with blood; and that M. Sallior's manner was not that of a murderer, for, as soon as he was conscious what had happened, he cried, "*Quel malheur!*" and evinced strong regret. Several witnesses gave the prisoner a high character. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

A WILD BOAR STORY.—The *Echo de la Nièvre* of the 3rd, gives an account of the killing of a wild boar at Fours, which had long been the terror of the country. He had entered the premises of a M. Schmid in open day, and when that gentleman came up he found two of his five yard-dogs dead, the three others dying, and his gamekeeper lamed for life by a dreadful wound inflicted in the leg by the tusks of the ferocious animal. M. Schmid fired his gun, which was loaded with ball, at the boar, and wounded him sufficiently to prevent the animal from making an attack. He then rushed at him, and with his *couteau de chasse* cut his throat. The animal weighed 130 kilogrammes, and in his hide were found ten balls, four of which had been fired at him long before, and six by M. Schmid and his keeper on the day of his death.

AN ANTEDILUVIAN RELIC.—The *Presse* states, that there has been discovered near Bonn the carcass of an enormous crocodile, which, by the nature and the conformation of its scales, differs entirely from all species of that animal hitherto known. These animals are divided into different species, according to the countries they inhabit. Those of the Nile bear no resemblance to the crocodiles of the Ganges, or the caimans of America. It would appear, by the recent discovery, that before the deluge the Rhine possessed a peculiar species of crocodile.

DOMESTIC.

PROVINCIAL.

DARTMOUTH ELECTION.—A correspondent of the *Chronicle* says—"The political excitement of the constituency of this little borough increases as the day of election draws near; but the tide of popular feeling flows decidedly in favour of the liberal candidate. Mr Moffatt addressed the electors at the London inn, on Saturday, on the completion of his canvass, and announced to a large and enthusiastic assemblage of friends that the canvass result left no doubt of the success of the liberal cause." The day of nomination, it is expected, will be fixed for the 23rd, the poll taking place next day.

TAX ON COTTON WOOL.—The Lancashire operative cotton spinners held a meeting, on Sunday week, at Hyde, at which they passed a resolution expressive of their opinion that the tax on cotton wool is impolitic; and in approval of the steps taken by the merchants, manufacturers, and cotton spinners to obtain its repeal.

MR VINCENT IN SUFFOLK.—Henry Vincent has been amongst us this week, propounding those great principles and truths of which he is the renowned advocate. A report of his lectures upon National Education appears in our columns this day, and it will doubtless be read by every enlightened Christian with satisfaction and philanthropic delight. On Thursday evening, Mr Vincent addressed the inhabitants in the theatre, which was crowded to excess, upon the following topics:—Present Aspect of Public Affairs—Condition and Prospects of Parties—Embarrassed State of the Tory Ministry—Present Time Favourable for the Propagation of Great Principles—Duties of the People in Relation to the

Great Cause of Civil and Religious Liberty. The reception of his lucid and cogent remarks exemplified that a sound, sober, intellectual feeling exists among many of the middle and lower classes of the town, and sure we are that hundreds will regret they could not surmount their present prejudices in order to listen to outpourings of the spirit of truth, and to the outbursts of an eloquence which has rarely if ever been surpassed.—*Suffolk Chronicle*.

NEW POOR LAW AT ROCHESTER.—The eighteen guardians in the poor law union of Rochester, and the whole of the magistrates in the district, were last week served with a mandamus to appear at the court of Queen's bench, on the 11th of January next, to show cause why the guardians refuse to act, and why the magistrates refuse to officiate as *ex-officio*. Great hostility to the new poor law prevails at Rochester among persons of all grades in politics.

TURN-OUT IN LANCASHIRE.—On Tuesday se'n night the coal miners at Tonge Lane colliery, near Oldham, turned out, and remain out for an advance of wages of 15 per cent. The miners at Royton, and several collieries in the neighbourhood of Oldham and Crompton, have given notice that they will turn out, or have an advance of wages of from fifteen to twenty and some twenty-five per cent. Meetings of the Colliers' Union are held every evening. On Tuesday week, the moulders, mechanics, and machine-makers turned out at Messrs Wm Kay and Son's foundry, Bolton street, Bury, on account of the masters employing two persons who were not members of the trades' union. The masters are employing fresh hands every day, who receive the same wages. The hands employed at the mill belonging to Messrs Thomas Taylor Brothers, Wallgate, Wigan, have been out during the past week, owing, it appears, to the Messrs Taylor attempting to discharge some of the ring-leaders in the late strike, and not paying others of their hands the promised advance of wages. A few of the hands resumed work on Tuesday morning last, with the understanding, it is said, that they shall not belong to the union, or contribute towards its support. This exaction is likely to cause further uneasiness, as subscriptions from all the other mills are in a state of preparation to enable the turn-outs to make a stand. It appears that the colliers in the neighbourhood of Winstanley are in a very unsettled state, for, on Sunday morning last, about two o'clock, the houses of two of them, situated at the Arches, near Lamberhead green, were attacked, the doors and windows broken in with stones, and otherwise damaged. A reward of £10 has been offered by Mr Tebay for the apprehension of the offenders. During the present week some of the colliers in the above neighbourhood have been guarded back to their work by the police. According to the colliers' account, the masters have agreed not to employ each other's men, unless they have a regular written discharge from their last place, and it is said that some of the masters have refused to give the turn-outs, who have applied to them, such discharge; and, consequently, the masters are to be sued for such wages, under the directions of Mr Roberts. The colliers at Kirkless had not resumed work on Monday last.

IRON TRADE.—The prospects of the Staffordshire iron trade are now of a more cheering character than for some time past; as, after the last quarterly meeting of the iron-masters, a reduction was announced, which was alike unexpected to the buyers and to the majority of the makers of the article; and, in the course of the following week, orders given at the prices fixed by some of the leading houses were declined by the masters, and those only which were given and accepted in the "quarter week" were considered binding. The parties engaged in the trade were well aware of the object contemplated by the large masters who operated for the reduction, and, conceiving that it could not be justified, held out for former prices, which have subsequently been fully maintained. The anticipated demand for rails justifies the views of speculators; and the orders given by those existing companies that are certain of the passing of the act for the extension of their lines have sustained the price of iron, and caused a demand from those makers who were disposed to sell at the prices nominally fixed at the end of the last "quarter-week." The operation then contemplated has failed, and there is a well-grounded expectation that on the next quarter-day, not only prices of the quarter from July to October will be maintained, but that an advance will take place, fully supported by the parties who operated for the reduction in October; and, with these prospects, numerous private bargains are negotiated, and purchases made by the producers themselves.—*Birmingham Gazette*.

THE SUSSEX LABOURERS.—A long address appears in the *Brighton Herald*, and from thence was copied into the *Times* of Monday, from a person professing to be a labouring man, giving a vivid picture of the privations and misery endured by the agricultural labourers. The writer thus describes himself:—

"I am a labouring man, with a family of five children. Two of my boys work at wages, 2s. 6d. each weekly. My own wages are only 5s. weekly, in consequence of my not being so strong as my fellow labourers. It is on this account that I wish to do something better for my family, if I can. I have wrote it in haste, in my wife's absence, because the authorities of—have told my wife that my pen will one day be the ruin of me." With this amount of income, it is scarcely possible he should be able to get anything better than dry bread for his ordinary food; and on that subject he writes thus feelingly:—

"There are those who think that bread alone is sufficient to keep a man's strength up who has to labour in the fields. I wish those that think thus would accompany me on a cold winter's morn, with the bitter biting north wind blowing in his face, with rain, sleet, or snow. Let him work in the fields for five hours, and afterwards

sit under a wet cold hedge and eat for his dinner a bit of bread day after day. He would then, like me, and thousands more, in the words of Burns, 'Find every sad succeeding night and joyous morn the same.' He would wonder why he, of all created beings, should be so wretched. How often have I envied the birds and beasts! 'You,' said I, 'have a table spread in the wilderness; you eat and drink from it without anxiety or care.' When I look around on the providence of God, everything I see is conducted with so much benevolent care to every living being, that I am quite convinced that He never sent a human being to pass through a life of misery."

After some severe remarks on the operation of the new poor law, he makes the following comparison:—

"I made, some little time since, a calculation. I took the amount of meat consumed by ten of the families of the aristocracy, and I found each of the members, including servants and all, amounted to each member per day to one pound a half, which is ten pounds and a half to each individual weekly. I also took the amount of meat consumed by ten families of poor people, and it amounted to only half-an-ounce per day, or nearly half a pound per week. So that we see that the idle eat or waste three times as much per day as the poor do in one week. Did they but know the faintness and languor that so often come over the hard-working labouring man who eats only bread, the gentry would pity us. I am not speaking about those labouring people who have grown-up children and able to work, but those who have to bring up families with only the man's wages to live on."

He draws a touching picture of the usual Saturday night's scene at his miserable abode. He describes it as the very dialogue which has passed repeatedly between himself and his wife:—

"Well, James, I have just been to market. I wish you would go yourself, for I really do not know how to lay the money out. I have paid 7s. for flour, 1s. for coals, 3d. soap, 6d. candles, 3d. yeast, 5d. for butter, 6d. for meat, 2d. for tea. I did mean to save 2d. for you to buy you one pint of beer, because you have been so poorly for the last three days, but I could not spare it; for you know our little babe cannot eat his sop without a little sugar—if he has dry bread to eat for two or three days he is ready to starve, dear little soul. I have bought one pound of mutton, with which I will make you some broth to-night; it will do your cold good: what you leave will make a dinner for us to-morrow. I wanted to buy some flannel for Mary and some calico for myself. George wants his shoes mended, and Richard wants some trousers; he and all of us are very thin clad for winter. I was in hopes this week that I should be able to buy a basin or two, for we have only one for us all. Oh dear me! I have spent all the money, and have forgot to buy some oil for the shoes and boot-laces. Dear me, my head turns round; I am bewildered when I think of our numerous wants. When you was ill a month since, and could not work for a week, we should have perished if the shopkeeper had not kindly given us credit for a little grocery, and the miller for a grist. These people expect their money; they do not ask me for it certainly, but I do hate to look them in the face, because I owe them so much. I hope none of my dear children will ever marry, for love is to the poor the greatest curse. Ah, James, you may look at me; even my love to you is a curse. How hurtful is it to my feelings when in winter you come home wet through, no good shoes to keep your feet dry, day after day, in consequence of which you have got the rheumatism in your feet. How do I wish at these times I had got something to nourish you in lieu of a bit of bread and a little toast and water, a poor reward for a man who has stood the pelting of the pitiless storm all day long. God grant that in the next world we may not be governed by human beings, but by the law of God, which wicked human beings wilfully misconstrue. There we shall no more hear the voice of our oppressors."

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.—Two most important railway meetings have been held at Liverpool this week—first, for the purpose of submitting the conditional agreement entered into by the Liverpool and Manchester Company with the North Union Company for the amalgamation of the lines, and other minor matters; and, secondly, to obtain the sanction of the proprietors of the Grand Junction Company to the consolidation of the Manchester line with theirs. The terms of the first agreement are, that each consolidation North Union stock be considered equivalent to £64 7s. 6d. of the Liverpool and Manchester, or amalgamated stock. Those of the second, as stated in the report—that the Liverpool and Manchester Company having already created new £40 shares this year to extinguish their debt, and the Grand Junction Company having issued new £12 10s. shares to meet their subscriptions to the Lancaster and Carlisle Company, each holder of a Grand Junction £100 share, or other stock equivalent in amount, shall have a new £25 share, and that being done, that the whole shall be consolidated on equal terms, in one capital stock (instead of shares), under clauses in the bill for which, with the concurrence of the trustees, the directors intend to apply in the ensuing session.—*Times*.

THE GREAT BRITAIN STEAM SHIP.—Wednesday last, being the day appointed for the Great Britain's leaving the basin at Bristol, and proceeding down the channel upon her first trial trip, as early as half-past 6 o'clock, although the cold was very severe, every portion of the basin and the Rownham wharf was crowded by many thousand persons anxious to witness the safe passage through the locks of this leviathan of the deep. A portion of the masonry of the lock had been removed, in order to enable her to pass safely through, and at about 7 o'clock she began to move towards the entrance of the lock, being taken in tow by powerful steam tugs. The vessel continued to progress until, when about three-fourths of her length had passed into the lock, she was found to touch at the sides, and Captain Claxton, R.N., the superintending director, immediately ordered her back into the basin. Workmen were employed to remove an additional portion of the masonry of the lock, and at night she passed safely through, and lay outside the docks, in order to be in

readiness for the morning's tide. At five minutes past 8 o'clock, on Thursday, she started, being taken in tow by three steam tugs. On her decks were the directors and various ladies and gentlemen who had been invited to accompany her on the trip. The moment the tugs were put in motion, she moved gracefully through the water, amid the cheering of thousands of spectators who lined the banks of the river, and continued her progress to Kingroad, where she arrived in 2 hours and 8 minutes; not a single accident occurred, and all throughout her passage down the river she was hailed by the cheers of the assembled spectators. The steam was then got up, and at half-past 11 o'clock the screw propeller was put in motion. Directions were given to start her with six revolutions only, at which she made about four knots. On passing Portishead, at 12 o'clock, the revolutions were increased to 9½ per minute, when she made a 6½ log; 10½ revolutions gave a log of 7 knots; 10½ revolutions a rate of 7½ knots. The steam was kept at this point for some time, and then increased to 12 revolutions, when she gave 8 knots as her rate of speed. At this period, being then near the Holmes, the experiment of turning her round with the helm hard down was tried; she came round in nine minutes, making a circle of rather more than half a mile in diameter. She was then tried a second time, with the helm at only 30 degrees, when she came round in a most beautiful manner, in six minutes and in a less distance. When going the straight course, the stupendous mass answered her helm most readily, taking not more than one spoke of the wheel, and requiring only one man at it. In returning homewards, the speed of the engines was gradually increased to 13 revolutions, at which she gave 8½ knots, and to 16 and 16½ revolutions, when she went through the water at 11 knots, against a strong head wind, passing easily the Sampson, the fastest paddle boat out of the port. The engines worked perfectly smooth, and without the slightest vibration or tremor being felt in any part of the vessel. When going at her best speed, there was no swell whatever under the bows, her stem cutting through the water just as the fastest Thames boats do. The whole experiment lasted five hours; and in every particular the vessel realised the most sanguine expectations. The Great Britain is built entirely of iron, with the exception of the flooring of her decks and the flooring and ornamental parts of her cabins. She is 322 feet in length, and 50 feet 6 inches in breadth; so that her bulk nearly equals that of any two steamers in the world. She has four decks, the lowest of which is of iron, and appropriated for the reception of cargo. The upper deck, with the exception of a small fore-castle, is completely flush from stem to stern, measuring 308 feet. Besides the vast space appropriated to the passengers and crew, and that occupied by the engines, boilers, &c., she has sufficient room for the stowage of 1,000 tons of coals and 1,200 tons of measurement goods. There are three boilers, capable of containing 200 tons of water, heated by 24 fires, and she has four engines of 250-horse power each, making in all 1,000-horse power. The Great Britain is fitted with the Archimedean screw propeller, which has six arms, and is 15 feet 6 inches diameter, with a 26-feet pitch; the propeller itself is composed of 3 tons 16 cwt of iron.

MORE INCENDIARY FIRES IN HERTFORDSHIRE.—On Monday night, about half-past eleven o'clock, a fire broke out on the Parsonage farm, at King's Walden, near Stevenage, occupied by Mr G. Roberts. In a very short time the fire spread from barn to barn until the whole farm-yard was blazing. The Hitchin and Luton engines were soon on the spot, but the fire continued to burn with unabated fury until five o'clock in the morning, when the whole of the buildings, with the exception of one barn, a cow-house, and the farm-house, which stood at a distance from the barns, were reduced to ashes. The agricultural labourers showed great reluctance to assist in extinguishing the flames, and it was found advisable to station a guard in the rick-yard, which was some distance off, to detect or prevent any fresh act of incendiarism. The loss is estimated at £2,000, and the property was insured. Suspicion has fallen upon two labouring men, who were seen prowling about on Monday, first in the neighbourhood of Lilly Hoo, and afterwards near the Parsonage farm. It may be recollected that, about three weeks since, a fire took place at Lilly Hoo farm, between Hitchin and Luton, and in the occupation of Mr Betts; and that the whole, with the exception of the dwelling-house and a range of faggot stacks, was destroyed. On Monday night last, at nine o'clock, the faggot stacks were discovered to be on fire, and, in the course of an hour and a half, all of them were consumed. Nothing now remains standing but the farm-house. No doubt is entertained that the stacks were wilfully fired. On the following night (Tuesday), at eleven o'clock, another fire occurred in a wheat stack, on the Bedford road, about a mile from Hitchin. Near the stack in which the fire originated were three other stacks, and the flames extended to these with great rapidity, ending with their total destruction. The loss is estimated at £700. The stacks were close by the road-side, and at a considerable distance from any building. It is confidently stated that the last fire was the act of an incendiary.—*Chronicle*.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY AT NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE.—On Thursday, information was received at the various metropolitan police stations, of an extensive robbery of notes and gold having taken place at Northwich, in Cheshire, on the 3rd instant. The property was stolen from the house of Mr William Glover, of Whitton street, and amounts in the aggregate to £900, consisting of £870 in notes and bank post bills, and thirty sovereigns. The numbers and dates of both bills and notes are known.

THE LATE FATAL COLLISION ON THE MIDLAND COUNTIES RAILWAY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.—We regret to state that on Tuesday morning Mr James Bolestridge, the landlord of the Three Horse Shoes, Derby road, one of the sufferers at the late fatal collision, died at his residence. He has left a widow and several children. A coroner's jury was empaneled in the evening which was continued by adjournment until Thursday night. The evidence was nearly the same as on the preceding inquests; but on the examination of Peter Clarke, of Derby, the superintendent of the line, and Matthew Kirtley, the superintendent of the locomotive department, the following strange facts were elicited: That it was not considered necessary that the engine-men or guards should be able either to read or write. That when a fresh engine-man was appointed, a competent person was sent out with him, who, on his return, makes a verbal report to Kirtley; and when a man cannot read, the rules are read to him. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That James Bolestridge died in consequence of injuries received in a collision of two trains on the Midland railway on the 21st of November last, and that Robert Lightfoot and Jonathan Raven are guilty of manslaughter by causing the death of the said James Bolestridge." The coroner immediately issued his warrant for the apprehension of Raven, who is in Leicester. Prior to delivering the verdict to the coroner, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to by the jury:—

"That the management upon the Midland railway is exceedingly defective, and that the jury cannot too strongly express their disapprobation of the manner in which the engineers, stokers, and guards are selected, and not being considered a requisite qualification that they should be able to read and write, and that a presentment of these and other facts be made to the Board of Trade, with the signatures of the foreman and jury attached."

"That a memorial from the jury be presented to the directors of the Midland Railway Company, in behalf of the widow of James Bolestridge."

"That a petition, signed by the foreman and jury, be presented to parliament immediately on its assembling, praying for an alteration in the law which prevents the relatives of persons killed by culpable negligence from obtaining compensation. The jury also recommend that a similar petition be forwarded by the inhabitants of Nottingham."

FIVE LIVES LOST.—At Plymouth, on Friday last, a waterman's boat, supposed to contain five persons, was proceeding under sail from Hamoaze to the Dædalus frigate, lying in the Sound, when in crossing the "bridge," the wind blowing heavily, she upset, and the whole of the party were precipitated into the water. The accident being noticed by W. Walker, Esq., Queen's Harbour master, he instantly proceeded to the spot in his boat, and succeeded in picking up one, a sergeant of marines, whom he took on board the Firebrand, lying in Barnpool. The poor fellow survived, however, only an hour and a half. The other four bodies have not yet been found. They are believed to be two watermen belonging to Devonport and two seamen of H.M.S. Dædalus.

FOUR PERSONS DROWNED.—Four lives were lost last week by the overturning of the St Pierre, which was lying stranded in the river Parrott, just below Bridgewater. It appears that she left the port of Bridgewater on Monday evening, and waited the tide of Tuesday morning to carry her into the channel. The river being partially frozen, large pieces of ice were brought up by the tide, which, striking with great force against the vessel, capsized her, and immersed six persons in the water; two saved themselves with great difficulty, by swimming to land; but two men, a woman, and a boy, were drowned.

ALARMING FIRE AT HALSTEAD.—On Wednesday last, a fire broke out in the town of Halstead, on the premises of Mr William Knight, who carries on an extensive business as jeweler and Staffordshire ware-houseman. The appearance of the conflagration soon after its outbreak was indeed terrific; the whole of Mr Knight's house, and one side of the extensive range of old buildings which compose the George Hotel, seemed to be in flames. Four engines were promptly upon the spot, and in two hours the fury of the raging element was somewhat abated. A great number of the young females from the silk factories were indefatigable in the work of passing the buckets in the line for supplying the engines. The fire was first discovered by Mr and Mrs Knight, in their own bed room, on the side next the inn, the flames forcing their way through the floor and the skirting boards. They immediately alarmed the inmates, most of whom had to run for their lives, as the flames were already raging in the upper bed rooms, the sleeping apartments of the young men and apprentices, who were fast asleep, whilst the flames had approached their beds. Every article of clothing and wearing apparel belonging to the apprentices was consumed, and a female servant lost all she possessed.

The Queen held a privy council on Friday; at which Prince Albert and several of the ministers were present. Lord Wharncliffe, however, was away, and Sir James Graham officiated for the Lord President. A report was made on the petition from the states of Guernsey, praying the Queen's confirmation of a project of reform in the constitution of the states.

THE DUKE OF SAXE-GOTHA (Prince Albert's brother) was on Friday made a Knight of the Garter. Two bishops and a dean assisted at this most religious ceremony! The same honour was conferred upon the Marquis of Abercorn, and Earls De Grey, Powis, and Talbot.

The Duke of Wellington has received an intimation from the Queen, that the intended visit of her

Majesty and her royal consort to Strathfieldsaye must be postponed until after Christmas. Nearly all the arrangements for the royal reception were completed when the Duke received the royal message. Her Majesty's visit to the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham at Stowe also has been deferred.—*Times*

SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—Three public manifestations of respect to Sir Henry Pottinger, for his distinguished services in China, follow that of London. On Tuesday the inhabitants of Liverpool entertain him at a banquet in the Town hall, when a splendid service of plate will be presented to him. The Manchester manufacturers have subscribed £2837 towards another testimonial, which is to be presented at a public entertainment in that town on Friday; and the week following the merchants, &c., of Belfast (of which place Sir Henry is a native), pay a similar compliment to him.—*Times*.

It is currently reported, and generally believed, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having met with no opposition in the reduction of the three and a half per cents, intends proposing a reduction of the three per cents on the meeting of parliament.—*Globe*.

The intentions of the Bank of England to call in all the £1000 notes, dated 13th May last, has been officially noted to all the banks by Mr Hobler, with the view of adopting some measures for canceling those stolen from Messrs Rogers.

ERROR IN THE ALMANACKS RESPECTING EASTER.—The *Times*, alluding to a communication from a correspondent on this subject, says:—

Our correspondent, whose letter, in reference to a glaring mistake in the almanacks for the year 1845, appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday, is perfectly correct in his statement. According to the rule adopted, not only by the church prayer book, but by all chronologists and compilers of almanacks, Easter Sunday (the festival on which all the other moveable feasts of our church depend) is declared to be "the first Sunday after the first full moon that happens either upon or next after the 21st day of March—the period of the vernal equinox. But another direction is appended to the foregoing rule—viz., that when the said full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after. Now, in 1845, the paschal full moon, as it is termed, occurs on the evening of Sunday, the 23rd of March (at 8h. 19m., p.m.) Yet, notwithstanding the distinct and clear direction of the rules for finding Easter, the sapient chronologists have, in all their almanacks for the ensuing year, determined that Easter day falls upon the aforesaid 23rd day of March, or just one week earlier than it should do. Of course, if the rule be adhered to, the festival of the resurrection of our Lord will occur on Sunday, the 30th of March, which day, by the error abovementioned, is, alas! made "Low Sunday!" This really stupid and unpardonable blunder completely unfixes all the moveable feasts. Only one, instead of two, Sundays are allotted after the Epiphany; but twenty-seven, instead of twenty-six, Sundays announced after Trinity! Easter rarely falls earlier than the 26th or 30th of March; and, by thus pushing it back a week earlier, the greatest inconvenience may be experienced. How is this mistake to be rectified? Are the almanacks as authoritative as the letter of the church rubric?

Mr Woolhouse, the editor of the Stationers' company's almanacks, has published a vindication of their correctness, from which we take the following explanation of the circumstance:—

According to the rule, Easter day is "the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after the 21st day of March; and, if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after." But here it should be particularly observed that the paschal full moon, as it is understood in this rule, differs from the actual full moon as an astronomical phenomenon. It is an essential constituent of the rule that the day of the full moon shall correspond with that determined by the usual tables given in the church prayer books. The day of the full moon is thus made to depend exclusively on the cycles of the sun and moon, and the calculation supposes the moon's motion to be freed from the various periodical irregularities to which it is continually subject. The result will always be within a day of the actual full moon; for the year 1845 it falls on March 22nd, the day before that on which the moon actually attains her full; and, in consequence, Easter day is on the following Sunday—viz., March 23rd, which is quite correct, and strictly in accordance with the rule laid down.

PAYMENT OF WAGES BEFORE SATURDAY.—The following passage occurs in the recent charge of the Bishop of Chichester:—"The other point, insignificant as, at first sight, it may appear, seems to me of great consequence—it is the day on which the wages of servants and labourers are paid, and the place. If masters could pay them on the Thursday instead of Saturday, I believe that many a victim to intemperance might be saved. Their Sunday comforts would be improved, and the duties of the Sabbath day would be much less interfered with. The gentry and farmers of Sussex, and other employers of the poor in this diocese, are many of them doing much for the improvement, morally and spiritually, of the labourers, as well as the amelioration of their external circumstances. Let me, through you, entreat of them to add this to the other good deeds in their behalf, assuring them that they will have their reward in more ways than one."

EFFECTS OF COMETS ON THE SEASONS AND TEMPERATURE.—History furnishes us with numberless instances of the great atmospheric changes which have accompanied or succeeded the appearances of large and notorious comets; and unless we reject altogether its often iterated testimonies, I do not see how we can refuse our assent to influences so manifest, and yet so simple and philosophical. We find a frost which bound up the Mediterranean sea, though situated so far south, after the comet's appearance of 1231; after its next return, in 1306, we read of the Baltic sea being again frozen over for fourteen weeks; again, after its visit of 1456, we learn that the ice extended from Mecklenburg

to Denmark; again, after its return in 1607, we are told that "a winter of uncommon severity followed all over the world;" then came the return of 1682, followed by that frost of three months' duration which was predicted to King Charles the 2nd. Again, after its return in 1759, which is still remembered by some very old people, from the circumstance of that notable frost, long spoken of as "the black frost," which endured no less than ninety-four days, or over three months. Hence we have records of severe frost immediately succeeding the appearance of large and notorious comets. We now approach the last appearance of the comet, which passed the equator about the latter end of October, and let the philosophers judge whether or not it will show its effects on the atmosphere? I am of opinion it will cause an intensely cold winter.—*G. Sugden, Howden, Dec. 11.*

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 18th.

COURT OF ALDERMEN.—Yesterday a court was held, at which Alderman Copeland brought forward a charge of gross cruelty against the city police. It was founded upon a petition from a man who had been tried for an assault upon a policeman and acquitted. The petitioner had been most dreadfully beaten by the officers, at the same time that they had bound him hand and foot; and the men who had come forward to establish the case had most frightfully prevaricated and contradicted each other. After some discussion, the petition was referred to the committee. The Chamberlain's report on the subject of the non-freemen was brought up. It required from the court some direction as to the proceedings against those parties who declined to take up the freedom. Sheriff Sydney felt strongly upon the subject. He looked upon the conduct of the Court of Aldermen as most unjust and ungenerous. Alderman Wilson said he was bound to prove the correctness of the accusation. Sheriff Sydney said it was undeniable that the court of Aldermen had acted unjustly and ungraciously towards the shopkeepers, in obliging them to take up their freedom, while they passed over the great wholesale dealers. Alderman Wilson said he believed there were forty-one actions pending against wholesale dealers. The solicitor said that, of forty-two persons against whom it had been determined to proceed, several had taken up their freedom, and the proceedings had immediately been abandoned. After some further observations from members of the court, the court agreed to direct the Chamberlain to proceed with such actions as should be considered expedient. The court then proceeded, with closed doors, to discuss the propriety of relieving Giltspur street prison, by sending the prisoners charged with assaults and misdemeanours to the Borough Compter, which, in consequence of the New Debtors' act, is now empty.

THE CHURCH.—The members of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement and Building of Churches and Chapels, held their second meeting for the season, on Monday, at their chambers, St Martin's place. The Bishop of London presided. The board voted grants in aid of the erection of six new churches, and the enlargement of four existing churches. Four of the new churches are intended for districts to be endowed, under the act of last session, from funds placed at the disposal of the ecclesiastical commissioners; the others will be endowed from local resources. Three of the new churches will be entirely free. It was reported by the treasurer that the grants voted at the meeting had reduced the balance at the disposal of the society to £820 17s. 6d.

THE LEAGUE AND THE "CHRONICLE."—The *Morning Chronicle* is very wroth with the League for the course of conduct they are pursuing. Although not so applied by the editor, his remarks form an excellent argument for the complete suffragists. He says:—

"We cannot, for the life of us, conceive what good is to be attained by the attacks, in which some of the free traders are just now indulging, against every philanthropic movement except their own. We hardly remember anything so wanton and so unreasonable since the chartists gave up the practice of disturbing all sorts of meetings by resolutions in favour of the 'five points.'"

Is corn law repeal to be held forth as a panacea, a complete cure for every social ill, or are we to wait for free trade before employing any other means for the improvement of the labouring class? For our own parts, we must say that, highly as we estimate the benefits of a free trade in corn, we are far from thinking it the whole of what the time requires."

THE FOG IN THE CITY.—The fog which visited the metropolis yesterday morning was one of the most dense that was ever remembered in the city, every warehouse, shop, and counting-house, as also the law courts, being lighted up with candles or gas.

SHOCKING STEAM-BOAT COLLISION.—Yesterday afternoon, about half-past two o'clock, as the Sylph, Woolwich steam-packet, was proceeding on her down passage to Woolwich, having just left the Greenwich stone pier, and when off the east end of the royal hospital, she was run down by the Orwell (Ipswich steamer), proceeding to London bridge wharf. A dense fog prevailed at the time, and the shrieks of the passengers on board both vessels were heart-rending in the extreme. The Orwell struck the Sylph on her starboard-bow, and cut her nearly in two. Immediately on the Orwell receding from the Sylph, three of the cabin-passengers were carried to the surface by the rush of water thus created. They were picked up, and taken ashore by

the boats in attendance, as well as the crew of the Sylph, and numerous deck-passengers, who had been washed overboard. One of the officers of the Orwell rushed on board the sinking vessel, with an axe in his hand, and rescued two persons who were wedged in between the broken timbers and the vessel's side. These were also taken on shore. Some children were picked up, and taken on board the Orwell. One person, whose name it is supposed is Shepherd, was taken to the Union public house, East Greenwich, with his skull frightfully fractured, one eye knocked out, and a leg and an arm broken; he is since dead. Another man and three young women were taken on board the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital Ship, with wounds and severe contusions. The man has since died, but the women, having had their wounds dressed, were put on shore, and sent home to their relatives. Several other women and children, more or less hurt, as well as being immersed in the river, were taken to different public houses. It is said that at least seventeen persons are drowned, but this is at present conjecture. It is known that at London bridge the Sylph took on board 24 passengers; on her arrival at the Thames tunnel she took in 10; and with this number she proceeded on her course to Greenwich. The passengers belonging to the Orwell were landed at Greenwich, and were forwarded by railway and omnibus to their respective destinations; and that vessel is now lying off the Greenwich pier, will remain until this day, when it is hoped the Sylph will be raised sufficiently to ascertain the number of passengers who were drowned in that vessel. The Orwell was much behind time, having been two days on her passage from Ipswich. The Sylph was a new boat, built with separate bulk-heads, on the newest principle; she was divided into three compartments—the forepart, including the fore cabin, the engine house, and afterpart; each of these are completely water-tight, and although one portion may be struck and knocked in, yet the other portions cannot be affected by the water; and from this circumstance alone is to be attributed the saving of some of the passengers, for the instant she filled the stern rose out of the water, and to that part all the passengers on deck rushed, where they clung hold of the seats, sides, &c., until rescued from their perilous situation. The Orwell will leave the river this day, under the command of Captain Wrackham and the rest of the crew, so that if the inquest should be held to-day, it will merely be for the identification of the bodies, when the investigation will be, as a matter of course, adjourned.

THE ACCIDENT AT DRURY LANE THEATRE.—Miss Webster died at half-past three o'clock yesterday morning, from the effects of the injuries she received by the distressing accident at Drury lane, on Saturday night.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE COMMERCIAL ROAD.—Yesterday forenoon a fire broke out in the marine signal light manufactory, in the occupation of Messrs Robeson and Highams, the patentees, situate in the Commercial road East, near the Regent's canal. The progress of the fire was unusually rapid, and in the course of a few minutes the building became one complete flaming mass. Notwithstanding that the firemen exerted themselves to the utmost, they were unable to extinguish the fire before the stock in trade and the building were nearly destroyed. The Messrs Robeson and Highams are uninsured.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION, DUBLIN.—The weekly meeting on Monday was numerously attended. Mr Nicholas Markey in the chair. A letter from Mr Steele, and an address from Mr Smith O'Brien, relative to the disturbances in Leitrim and Cavan, were read, and the thanks of the association voted to both gentlemen on the motion of Mr O'Connell, who then proceeded with his speech, which was composed principally of complaint against the English press, with a few observations respecting the national debt and the agrarian outrages. He concluded by moving that the repealers throughout Ireland be called upon to demonstrate their perseverance in the repeal cause by sending in weekly contributions on and after the 1st of January, 1845. The motion was carried unanimously. After the disposal of some routine business, Mr O'Connell announced the rent for the week to be £179 12s. 2d.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY OF CLARE.—Another murder has been committed in Clare, where the magistracy had assembled, last week, to devise measures for bringing to justice the persons concerned in the assassination of Mr Arthur Gloster, a magistrate. On Friday afternoon, Thomas Heffernan, a farmer, residing near Ennis, was fired at by some miscreants who lay in wait, and died instantly. The murder was committed about three o'clock, and it is stated that some of the neighbours of the victim were quite near at the time. It appears that Heffernan was proceeding by ejection against his mother and brother-in-law.

WRECK OF THE DEMERARA PACKET.—About eight o'clock on Sunday evening the Demerara packet, from Liverpool to Demerara, ran on shore opposite Salt hill, in the bay of Dublin. Being a stranger, the master mistook the entrance to the harbour, and passed to leeward, where the vessel took the ground and became a total wreck.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	1140	1310	10	..	..	..
Scotch....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Irish ....	..	..	3160	..	..	..
Foreign ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

There is no alteration to report in prices of any description of corn.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H. Martin." We have no present intention of republishing the articles referred to.
 "A Nonconformist." We must say now, as we said last week, the wound we have already inflicted is deep enough for the present.
 "D. Cook." Robinson, of Leicester, was a clergyman of the established church, and is probably mistaken for Robinson of Cambridge; but we are unable, just at the present moment, to give him the information he wants.
 "A. R. Philips" declined. We do not advertise other papers gratis.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
 For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
 For every additional line..... 4d.
 For a half column £1 5s. | For a column...£2 0s.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

Orders for the *Nonconformist* are received at the office, and by all booksellers and newsvendors. The terms of subscription, if paid in advance, are £1 6s. per annum. All communications for the Editor should be addressed to the office, No. 4, Crane court, Fleet street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 1844.

SUMMARY.

CIVIL war rages in the church of England—and the clergy, led on by Henry of Exeter, have taken the field against the laity. The immediate occasion of dispute is as paltry as the mind of man could imagine—the comparative merits of black and white; but the principle involved, as the bishop has recently stated it, is nothing more nor less than whether episcopal authority is to be absolute or not. The laity within the pale of the establishment have hitherto endured, with remarkable forbearance, the encroachments of the clergy. But at length, thanks to the restless ambition of the latter, they are rousing themselves to assert something like a shadow of a shade of freedom—and, the battle once commenced, necessity may, peradventure, drive them to look somewhat more narrowly at fundamental principles. We shall mark the progress of their struggle, therefore, with friendly interest. We sincerely hope they may pick something more out of it than learned expositions of an obsolete rubric. They have taken up ground—conscientiously, we have no doubt, but yet unwittingly—which it will be impossible for them to maintain without opening a battery of truth which will rake state-churchism. According to the system of the established church, the Bishop of Exeter and the clergy are right, and the laity are wrong—upon New Testament principles the respective positions of the two parties are reversed. The contest will, if continued, very speedily run into one of ecclesiastical authority *versus* the Bible—and, in whatever manner it terminates, the state-church principle must needs suffer damage. It is given out that the primate is about to call a convocation of the bishops, with a view to quench the fire of dissension. But, as a difference of opinion is known to prevail on the bench, and division is as rife there as it can be elsewhere, it is little likely, if called, to heal existing strife. We understand that the clergy of the diocese of Exeter will, almost to a man, obey their bishop—so that we begin to wonder whereto the thing will grow.

The League has opened another London campaign, and had a crowded and enthusiastic audience at Covent Garden theatre. The main topic of oratory was the new scheme of creating forty-shilling freeholders, with which Mr Cobden anticipates he will be able to beat the landlords. We are not about to re-discuss this question. As we have said before, so we now say again, and from our hearts, we wish he may. But we may take this opportunity of correcting a misapprehension into which our friend the *Manchester Times* has fallen, respecting a sentiment expressed by us last week. Our contemporary has probably been led astray by our own negligence of language. He gently rebukes us for having said that "the present time does not greatly favour an extensive public movement on behalf of complete suffrage," and contends that "there cannot be a better time for urging a good theory of representation, than when the people are thoroughly convinced of the existence of a great evil, the result of defects of our representative system." Now we not only agree with the *Manchester Times* in this opinion, but we have substantially insisted on the same truth in articles devoted to a reasoning-out of the point. What we meant to affirm was, not that the friends of complete suffrage should be either silent or inactive, but that in the present state of the public mind, any attempt at extensive organisation must necessarily fail, and had, therefore, better be postponed till a more suitable opportunity. Our motto should be, "the time should be times of sowing to the friends of truth."

For now nearly four years we have incessantly and untiringly preached what we regard as "a true theory of representation," looking for no other

reward than that highest one, "the luxury of doing good." We have had the pleasure of seeing some twenty or thirty journals follow in our wake. For three months, week after week, we worked "alone in our glory" for an anti-state-church conference; and, when the game was won, we found ourselves in company with many zealous and rejoicing contemporaries. Against every discouragement we have gone steadily on, endeavouring to act upon our own counsel, and "sing at our work." When others have shrunk away from our side, we have never refused, if truth demanded it, to "stand i' th' imminent deadly breach;" and accordingly, on most critical occasions, we have had to receive the largest proportion of the shots and shells of opponents, both in editorial castigations and in diminished circulation. We verily believe that the *Nonconformist* has made many more readers for other papers, who have come up to its principles when all danger was over, than ever it made for itself. Such having been our course, it is not likely that we should counsel our friends to inaction. We have sometimes complained of them for showing symptoms of it; but never have we encouraged it. Nor shall we cease to pursue the course upon which we have set out. We ask no party to recognise our services. We solicit no patronage. We know no master. We are apt enough to give offence when we let out inconvenient truths; but we knew what was in store for us when we started, and we have neither been greatly surprised nor at all disappointed.

Stop, saucy pen! and, instead of all this egotism, say something about what is doing in the world. We might in truth reply, nothing—and the reply will be our excuse for saying something about ourselves. Several metropolitan meetings—one for the protection of distressed needlewomen, another for the better ventilation of the dwellings of the poor; a dinner given by the merchants of London to Sir H. Pottinger, late her Majesty's plenipotentiary in China, at which rival foreign secretaries passed compliments upon each other, and, as usual, the army and the navy came off with fulsome praise; a cattle show, visited by her Majesty, where fat oxen and swine might suggest how much better they are cared for than "Sussex labourers;" Mr Vincent, at Ipswich, labouring with indomitable zeal, and carped at in true Reform-club style by the whig organ of the county, the *Express*; the breaking-up of the frost; the bursting of a locomotive boiler; a fresh verdict pronounced by the jury of a coroner's inquest, occasioned by a third death resulting from the collision of trains on the Midland Counties railway, and charging two parties with manslaughter: these, we believe, are the principal domestic topics of the week—as to Ireland, and the movements of Ireland's chieftain, we must in all imaginable courtesy request our readers to — see below.

STIMULANTS AND FOOD.

A REPEAL demonstration—a sort of monster meeting of a degenerate order—held last week at Waterford, leads us to make some observations upon Mr O'Connell's present course of agitation. We need scarcely say they are dictated by a friendly spirit. We can hardly hope, however, that they will be taken as they are meant.

Our stated readers will be aware that, whilst we have never winked at Mr O'Connell's faults, we have been up with the foremost in our attempts to do ample justice, both to him and to the people of Ireland. Of no public man have we spoken in terms of sincerer admiration. Attacked by a strong and unscrupulous government—worried by daily provocations—overborne for a time by injustice armed to the very teeth—he conducted his defence right nobly, and in every fresh encounter with tyranny, rose, in moral heroism, superior to the fiercest assaults of his inveterate foes. From the moment of the Clontarf proclamation, up to the hour of his unexpected liberation from the Richmond penitentiary, there was in all that he did and said, a calm dignity, a self-possessed magnanimity, a sublime forbearance, which did not fail to produce a deep impression in his favour upon the minds of thoughtful Englishmen. With his release from danger fell the mantle of his greatness. He is no longer the hero—he is merely the agitator. He stands not now as the champion of great principles—he has dwindled into the demagogue, engaged in dealing out the coarsest vituperation, and in fanning to a flame the worst passions of his followers. He administers to the Irish mind strong stimulants instead of wholesome food.

This, we are perfectly conscious, is a serious charge—but it is one which we lament to say Mr O'Connell's recent history too fully substantiates.

We have always felt it due to the illustrious Liberator—for illustrious, unquestionably, he is—to place in the strongest light the obligation under which he has laid the world, by the numerous and striking illustrations he has given to it of the superior advantages of a peaceful agitation. That he has never allowed himself to be goaded into an open defiance of law or order—that he has denounced, with reiterated earnestness, all semblance of an appeal to physical force as a means of political change—that he has habituated an im-

pulsive, passionate, and courageous people to the practice of admirable forbearance—that he has resolutely set his face against crime, and has effectually discouraged all secret and illegal plotting for the overthrow of constituted authorities—that he has pursued this course in all his political movements from youth upward to old age—commends him to the fervent admiration and gratitude even of those who cannot sympathise with him in the objects he seeks to attain. We deeply regret to observe that his high reputation, even in this respect, is capable of being tarnished, and that Mr O'Connell is doing not a little to tarnish it. He must know better than most, what effect his frequent allusions to the immense physical force of his followers must produce upon their minds. He cannot be ignorant of the results likely to come of perpetually reminding them of their latent power, and boasting, in their presence, that, if once put forth, no opposition could stand before it. We have no warrant to question his sincerity in preaching peace. We have no doubt he will be able to maintain it during his life-time. But if the necessities of the agitator compel him, week after week, to point to the thunderbolt of a people's power, and, whilst deprecating the use of it, to hold up to their vanity the idea that, if hurled against England, it would crush her towering pride, Mr O'Connell may well fear that, when death has summoned him from his post, Irishmen will remember more of what he hath taught them of their strength, than of the policy of restraining it. If Mark Antony persists in reading and commenting upon Cæsar's will, it is to little purpose that he beseeches,

"Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
 To such a sudden flood of mutiny."

We are sorry to say that this is not the only stimulant which Mr O'Connell administers to the bad passions of the Irish people. The failure of his projected diversion for federalism, seems to have thrown him back into the arms of habits which in the hour of his adversity he solemnly forswore. He has caught the style and spirit of the *Nation*, as fierce and bigoted an organ of party as Ireland ever possessed. He is become rabid with anti-Saxonism. He pours upon the English people a full measure of his abuse and scorn. He revives the recollection of ancient massacres, of treacheries committed by our forefathers, of blood spilt in olden times, in Ireland, by British tyrants. He takes the acts of the government as representative of English feeling, which he well knows they are not. He sets down the kind enthusiasm of his late reception here as representing nothing more than the feeling of those assembled to do him honour—which he has good reason to know is flagrantly unjust. It is impossible that he should be in ignorance of the powerlessness, under the existing aristocratic system, of the people of this country. And yet, if he has any word of mitigation to qualify his exaggerated and wholesale censure, it is sure to be on behalf of a section of the aristocracy, and never in favour of the down-trodden millions. We cannot believe that he has any serious desire to create an irreconcilable feud between the commonalities of the two nations. But we do say that, owing to whatever reason, the tenor and drift of his speeches have lately been, to sharpen the edge of Irish prejudice against England, and to open an impassable breach between the one people and the other. The exigencies of agitation may drive him upon this shoal—but if they do, it is just because it suits not his purpose to point his ship's head to the broad deep.

Never had man a nobler opportunity than O'Connell of sowing in the public mind of both countries, the seed of great, vital, permanent political principles. He is the oracle of a larger number of individuals than ever listened with reverent attention to any man of any age. Great is his responsibility—would that he were fairly alive to it! Speaking, as he does, week after week, to confiding myriads, and through the public press, which, in every part of England, reports him more fully than he has the right to expect, or the gratitude to acknowledge, to the civilised world, what might he not by this time have accomplished, if, instead of cherishing in his hearers and readers a narrow spirit of nationality, devoid of all that is generous, all that is elevating, he had fed the people with the solid bread of sound political knowledge, had instructed them in the primary rights of man, and had taught them the value of private judgment, of self-government, of what is due to human nature, rather than to Irishmen as such? In England, he knows how to enunciate great principles—in Ireland, he is dumb respecting them. Were he to obtain repeal, he would still leave the vast majority of his countrymen in the hands of an ignorant and bigoted priesthood, and at the mercy of a proud aristocracy. We have read most of his speeches since the commencement of the modern agitation with sorrowful attention—and nowhere out of parliament could we find so immense a mass of words containing so few principles likely to benefit the world. We say deliberately, that for the living truths contained in them respectively, one speech of Henry Vincent is worth more to society than any hundred of O'Con-

nell's. When the great agitator is gone, what will all his eloquence have left in the minds of his countrymen, but a senseless passion for nationality? What key-principles will he have wrought into them? What generous aspirations will he have kindled in their hearts? What will be the abiding fruits of his half-a-century of labour? He is sowing to the passions, not to the reason, of Irishmen—and we much fear that, as soon as his restraining hand is cold in death, the whirlwind of insurrection will sweep from end to end of the Emerald Isle, and put back the freedom of her children another fifty years.

SPURIOUS BENEVOLENCE.

THAT there is much kind feeling in the country, even amongst those whose legislative proceedings indicate a paramount interest in their own aggrandisement, is a fact which we take to be too plain for denial. That it is extremely superficial in its character, and of very questionable wisdom in its modes of manifestation, is scarcely less evident to any who trouble themselves to reflect as well as to perceive. Unfortunately, the great majority of our countrymen, misconstruing the homely proverb "Seeing is believing," are very apt to confound facts with conclusions—and, wherever they see the first, deem themselves warranted in reposing confidently upon the last. Two grand mistakes have sprung out of this very common-place habit. On the one hand, men who take a broad and, as we think, a just view, of what is due to the poor from enlightened policy, imagine themselves justified in denouncing, as hypocritical pretence, all schemes for the amelioration of the sufferings of the destitute which go hand-in-hand with a determined opposition to that policy—and because, according to their views, bread is unjustly withheld, scout every offer of baths, wash-houses, ventilation, protection from middle-men, and such-like projects, as the paltry tricks of selfish duplicity. On the other hand, a perhaps larger class, observing the activity of certain noblemen and gentry, in getting up charitable associations for the benefit of the poor, consider themselves bound to infer thence that the repugnance of the same parties to free trade and its consequences must originate in philanthropic motives, and cannot in reason be ascribed to any overweening care respecting class, or personal, interests. Both parties are wrong.

Kindness to our fellows flows from two sources—the one animal, the other moral. We are so constituted that, whatever our character, whatever our central spring of action, we cannot help suffering when we see others suffer, nor fail to feel the promptings of a desire to extend towards them some relief. The propension may, of course, be all but annihilated by a persevering refusal to listen to its dictates—but in all cases it is within us—and being wholly physical in its nature, in many it becomes an irresistible passion. Its ordinary results commend it to our esteem, although it is as utterly devoid of every element of virtue as is sexual love. When habitually indulged, it takes the shape of good-nature or humanity. But there is an upper as well as a nether spring of kindness—one which can only be found in the regions of morals. It is the practical result of correct and comprehensive views of our real relationships, and of the obligations which spring out of them. It is the vibratory response of conscience to those tones of harmony which are heard only by men familiar with the moral world—the tendency impressed upon mind by the force of truth. And obedience to this tendency is true benevolence—good-will, as distinguished from good-nature. The kindness which has its origin in our physical nature is fitful and impulsive—liable to ebbs and flows—and is often most predominant where the mind is weakest. That, on the contrary, which flows from moral considerations, is equable, uniform, perennial, and is found in combination only with strength of character. Both are sincere; but the sincerity of the one is superficial and shallow—of the other, deep and full.

Lord Ashley appears to us to stand at the head of class No. 1. He is kind by physical instinct. Suffering in any shape awakens his compassion, and his hand has been accustomed to obey his heart. But he is utterly incapable, owing very possibly to a want of early practice, and to the narrow bigotry of the school in which he has been educated—of taking any large and profound views of man's moral relationships, or of the duties which, as a matter of principle, he owes to truth, as such, and, through truth, to society. His philanthropy, consequently, is wonderfully capricious, and displays itself in nursing pets. He knows nothing of that benevolence which may impel even a coarse-minded man to give, simply because justice bids him give. Indeed, he seems to have but a very limited acquaintance with the just and the true. Of broad principles, applicable at all times and in all places, he has no conception. Hence, as a matter of state policy—a thing which he looks at through the medium of his order—he can vote for the continuance of a law which tends, in seasons of scarcity, to make provisions dear and employment precarious. But he can, not the less sincerely, weep over some of the inevitable conse-

quences of that policy. His heart is still with aristocracy; but sympathy, which is sincere, but superficial, may stimulate him to originate all manner of movements and associations of which the simple conditions are suffering and relief. Let any moral qualification become requisite—firmness, for instance, to maintain ground deliberately chosen, in opposition to all the outcries of party—and he is lamentably wanting.

The numerous and various associations now springing up on every hand for the relief of want, or the remedy of evils felt by the poor, we take to be the embodiments of this physical kindness. They ought not to be treated as the schemes of cunning—they cannot properly be regarded as the fruits of benevolence. They are the spasms of natural compassion—real, but transient. They are based upon no principle of morals, but upon the mere impulse of strong feelings and lively sensibilities. Our great objection to them is, that they appeal to pity, not to justice. They call out into exercise none of those high attributes which most exalt the human race. There is too exclusive a tone in them of a mere sniveling good-nature. They speak soft—and all that—but they indicate no character. They have none of the lineaments of oughtness about them. They assume, indeed, to have descended from that parent—and there may be in them some distant kinship to the family. But there is more of the animal about them than the moral—and they strongly remind us of the celebrated sentimentalist, who starved a living mother, and wept over a dead ass.

Considerable sensation has been produced, with exultation and perplexity according to the standing of different parties, by the arrival at Liverpool of two small parcels (the first was only eleven barrels) of sugar from Venezuela, a state on the continent of South America in which the remnants of slavery exist. The Custom house having referred to the government, and the government to the law officers of the crown, their opinion was given that, as the treaty between this country and Venezuela contained what is technically known as the most favoured nation clause, the sugar could not be refused admission at the lower duty. From an order in council which has been subsequently issued, it appears that the government of Venezuela has made application to the British government for the admission of sugar from that country at the reduced duty, by virtue of this clause in the treaty.—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE.—We understand that orders have been issued by the admiralty to discontinue for the present the building of the ships after the Albion and Queen. Some healthy symptoms, therefore, begin to manifest themselves; and, as we anticipated, the good sense of the men at the head of naval affairs in this country will no longer be deluded in the teeth of such facts as we quoted in our last. Any one may form some idea of the uneasy propensities of these ships, when it is known that the Queen, during the late trials, actually carried away her fore-topgallant mast in pitching, and sprung her main-top-gallant mast. She was invariably beaten on a wind by the St Vincent; and she is the most unmanageable and dangerous ship possible. She carries two turns of lee helm, with the main tack on board, and foresail up. The Albion also, notwithstanding her beautiful sailing, evidently lost ground from a similar cause, so that she did not gain so much after tacking as she ought to have done by the distance she fore-reached. There is one fact not generally known, viz., the inclination under sail became greater as the Queen lightened, so that her inclination at last was just as great as that of the St Vincent or Caledonia; both heeled 64 degrees.—*Plymouth Times*.

JUDICIAL WAGGERIES.—We recommend our friend Punch to take the court of privy council in hand. The facetiousness of the tribunal is quite overpowering. The Lord Chancellor, in particular, will be so very, very funny. In the Guernsey case, Mr S. Wortley having to argue about a conference—

The Lord Chancellor: I remember attending some "conferences" in parliament which did not lead to much [a laugh].

Mr Roebuck having said that he answered a challenged question, our wag, the Chancellor, let fly again incontinently—

The Lord Chancellor: Aye, but the question is, have you a right to accept a challenge? [a laugh].

Mr Roebuck observed, that he had been told by the learned counsel on the other side.

The court was by this time tickled into such a merry mood by the Lord Chancellor, its first wag, that it was ready to laugh at anything, as will be seen in this specimen of its cachinnatory powers—

Mr Roebuck: The royal court have great power in that island, my lords, and frighten everybody except the governor [a laugh].

The Lord Chancellor: He does not appear easily frightened [laughter].

Excepting, should have been added, upon conspiracies to celebrate the Queen's birth-days by shooting him. But this would have been no joke. The fun of the Chancellor and hilarity of the court were not yet exhausted. Mr Roebuck having noticed the claim of members of the royal court to speak to the governor separately, each in his own right—

The Lord Chancellor: And as long as he likes [a laugh].

People who want to laugh should clearly go to this real court of Momus, instead of throwing away their money on theatres ostensibly representing farces, which are often very serious performances. There is the difference between the judicial committee of the privy council and the minor theatres of burlesque or farce between the real and the sham pig.—*Examiner*.

METROPOLITAN.

THE LEAGUE.

On Wednesday night the first meeting for the season of the Anti-corn-law League took place at Covent Garden theatre, which was crowded in every part. On the stage were—Mr Villiers, M.P., Mr Cobden, M.P., Mr Bright, M.P., Colonel Thompson, Major-general Briggs, and various others of the leading free traders.

Mr G. WILSON (the chairman), on presenting himself to the company, was loudly cheered. He said that if the League had not been accustomed to large meetings, the present might have excited surprise, occurring as it did at a time least favourable to political excitement. He therefore looked upon the present vast meeting as a proof of the increasing zeal of the inhabitants of this metropolis in favour of the abrogation of restrictions on free trade. He then gave some facts as to the result of the efforts made to register the free traders, and to strike off the register the friends of monopoly. He stated that the council of the League had returns from 140 of the boroughs of England, but that the whole of them were not complete.

"With reference to 108 of these boroughs, the result was, that in ninety-eight or one hundred the freemen had obtained a majority in the revision courts [immense cheering]. In seven, or, at the most, eight of these boroughs only, have the monopolists gained in the revision courts; and in no cases, as far as he knew, sufficient to affect the actual seats of free traders" [cheers].

He added further—

"He would now state, from the same list, a few of the more striking results obtained by their last exertions in the registration courts. There were four boroughs which, at the last election, returned eight monopolists, in which, from local circumstances, they would be able to return at the next election four free traders, neutralising the four monopolists [cheers]. In six other boroughs, which formerly returned seven free traders and seven monopolists, there would, at the next election, be returned fourteen free traders: and fourteen other boroughs would return twenty-one representatives of free trade at the next election, an entirely new gain to the free traders, making altogether a gain of thirty-two new votes in favour of Mr Villiers's motion, on a division tantamount to sixty-four, in advancement of free trade principles [loud cheers]. All this had been done in the course of a single year: nor did the information he had thus given at all represent the whole progress that had been made.

Mr WILSON then described the operations of the League in reference to South Lancashire and other counties; the vast field which Middlesex, the West Riding of York, and other places presented for the operations of the League was also pointed out, and the means by which a vast addition of forty shilling freeholders might be made to the electoral lists were explained.

The result would be that, ere the 31st of January next, there would be 1000 new voters for South Lancashire, all staunch free traders [cheers]. Looking over the brook which separated them from South Cheshire, they found that at the last election there was a majority of 500 against the liberal candidate. Well, the League had very speedily induced the men of South Cheshire to put down 500 qualified new voters for that county [cheers]. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, since 1841, notwithstanding the severe contests in the registration courts, there the free traders have not gained more than 250 voters towards meeting the monopolist majority of 1000, and they were told by the legal gentlemen there that nothing more could be done. The League, however, said something more shall be done, and something more was done. Messrs Cobden and Bright sallied forth, visited first Halifax, where they got 200 qualified new votes, to be put down before January next; then to Leeds, where they got 400 more; then to Huddersfield, and here their success had been such, that the number of voters had been tripled [hear, hear]. The League, moreover, said to Yorkshire, Do you want any assistance?—No. Well, will you have it if offered?—Yes. Well, they will qualify in South Lancashire more than 500 new voters for Yorkshire, before the 31st of January next [cheers].

Mr VILLIERS followed, and remarked that, in attending to the registry, the League were only fulfilling the injunction of Sir Robert Peel. He urged the present as a very fit time for examining the result of reductions in the prices of provisions, which some said would be so injurious; and showed how little there was in the old claptrap cry of "cheap food—low wages," by reference to existing facts:—

"Let the revenue," he said, "be most especially examined in its condition under the influence of low prices and abundant food—for of all the bugbears, this in some quarters has been most successful. Why, what is everybody talking about but the surplus [hear, hear], and how it is to be disposed of? And there is no mystery about this—it is easy to see from what quarters the revenue comes. And I ask you, when the account is published on January 6, 1845, to compare the items which will indicate most clearly the condition of the consumer and the working man, with the same items in 1842. And then look at the price of wheat at the two periods. In 1842 it was, if I remember, 67s. a quarter; and next January it will probably be below 47s.; and do not look only at the gross amount, but at the items to which I have referred, and then say if ever a greater delusion was practised upon a nation than to tell them that, to enable them to pay taxes to the state, they should first have their bread taxed [cheers]?"

Mr COBDEN spoke next, and was very warmly greeted. He vindicated the manufacturers and traders—even Moses and Son—from the charge of "grinding the faces of the poor;" which he retorted on those who maintain monopolies, and then make a paltry return in the shape of charity. He rather sneered at the meeting in Exeter hall to improve the sanitary state of towns, and at the charity which will give water, drainage, open courts and alleys, anything but bread; though nothing is more certain, as far, at least, as the Lancashire district goes, than the fact that the mortality rises and falls with the price of food. He alluded also to the dip-

ner given by the city merchants to Sir Henry Pottinger:—

What has Sir Henry Pottinger done for these merchant-monopolists and princes of the city? He has been to China, and extorted from the Chinese government, for the benefit of the Chinese people I admit, a tariff. What is that tariff? I will tell you. It is founded on three principles. The first is, that no duties whatever shall be enforced on corn or provision imported into the celestial empire; nay, if a ship comes in loaded with provisions, that there should be not only no duty enforced on the cargo, but the ship is exempted from port charges—and that is the only exemption of the kind in the world. The second principle is, that there should be no duties for protection; and the third is, that there shall be moderate duties for revenue. Why, it is for that very tariff we have been contending at the Anti-corn-law League, for these five years past; the only difference between my friends and myself and Sir Henry Pottinger being, that while he has succeeded, by force of arms, in conferring on the Chinese this beneficial change, we have endeavoured, by force of argument, to extort a similar boon, for the benefit of the English people, from our aristocracy. And a further difference is this, that while our monopolist merchants are ready to make demonstrations in favour of Sir Henry Pottinger for his success in China, they have met us with obloquy, opposition, and abuse, for endeavouring, although without success, to do the same thing here.

He spoke at length of the system now pursuing by the League for the augmentation of county voters, and declared that it was not a "new movement," but a regular sequel of the tactics which they had pursued all along. He replied to various objections urged against the plan:—

The first objection to this course is, "That's a game two can play at." I can answer that objection by saying, we sit down to play with opponents who have all the stakes in their hands, while we have nothing to lose. The monopolists have played their game in the counties, and they have played out. With lynx-like vision they discovered, on the passing of the Reform bill, the Chandos clause, as a means of working out their end; and they made brothers, sons, uncles, aye, and to the third generation, partners under the tenant-at-will clause, though they were no more partners than you are. This they did successfully, and gained the counties. Now there is another clause in the Reform act, meant to benefit the unprivileged and industrious, and those who live by their labour—I mean the forty shilling franchise. Now, I will set the forty-shilling freehold clause against the Chandos clause, and we will beat the Tories in the counties. You have heard how disproportionately large the constituency is in the rural districts compared to the towns: we will reduce the balance, by inducing those in towns to qualify. How many here, fustian-jacket men, who have not, I dare say, votes? He went on to explain how a house might be purchased for £30 or £40, thereby obtaining a 40s. freehold. By the 31st of January, the League would have 2,000 new votes in Yorkshire. He wanted them (his hearers) to win Middlesex also; and there are already 1,000 good votes not on the register. Recollect, besides, you must take care that none not qualified remain on the list. Some say, to start such objections is acting like the Carlton club. Now, if both parties agree to leave on all votes put on the register, I agree to the proposal; but, if our opponents strike off the votes on our side, and we do not retaliate, I wonder which will win. Some one wiser than his neighbours will, perhaps, tell you that the land being in the possession of the landlords, they can cut up the land as they please, and qualify only those whom they choose. As Mr Villiers has well said, their estates are not their own in many cases—four-fifths of the parchments are not at home. But if they retained their property and wished to multiply votes, will they enfranchise the labourers? They would like such allotments very much. The only difficulty I see in the case—judging from the accounts of Dorsetshire and Wiltshire—is, that at the end of a year one-half the body will be found in the union workhouse and the other in gaol for poaching. No, the landlords have done their worst. They want money, men, and zeal in their cause. I believe we have struck the nail on the head. We never made any proposal which met with such an unanimous response from all parts of the kingdom. It took two hours daily to read the letters which were received with reference to our resolution from all parts of the country. We sent circulars to every one who ever subscribed to our funds, and we have everywhere been met in the same enthusiastic spirit. We have received, among others, a letter from Ipswich, saying that Suffolk might be easily gained on our plan. We do not want many counties. If we gain the more populous places, North and South Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, North Cheshire, and Middlesex, the landed monopolists would give up corn to save a great deal more.

Mr BRIGHT next addressed the meeting. He said that the sum of upwards of £90,000, subscribed in the course of the past year, proved the zeal of the free-traders, and their confidence in the council of the League. This showed that the question had sunk deeply into the minds of the people. He was a corn law repealer before he investigated the question, for it was a natural feeling of his mind to revolt at the doctrine that the people could be bettered by a scarcity of food. Since he had investigated the question, his previous prepossessions had been entirely confirmed. The League intended that four free-traders should be returned for London at the next election. No man acquainted with the population of the metropolis could deny that 5-6ths, aye, 9-10ths, were in favour of the principles of the League. Already winning, the League must triumph. No sensible man that he knew pretended to hope for the retention of the present corn laws. From the broad-cast of the League he anticipated would spring up a harvest of good and prosperity to the country.

Before the meeting separated, the chairman announced that a bazaar would be held in May, for the benefit of the League fund.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—A public meeting was held in Exeter hall on Wednesday, to take measures for improving the healthiness of dwellings for the industrious poor. The Marquis of Normanby

presided; several influential noblemen and gentlemen were on the platform; and letters of concurrence were read from others, and from the Bishops of London, St David's, and Norwich. The chairman observed, that although the object of the meeting was one which met with marked concurrence from persons of all parties and denominations, there had hitherto been no combined effort to carry it into effect. He dwelt upon the disgraceful and dangerous fact, that densely-crowded courts and alleys, hotbeds of disease, are mingled with the well-ventilated squares of the metropolis. He quoted several statistical figures, showing that the mortality in eight agricultural counties, those in which the least social change has taken place, is higher than it was thirty years ago. It is remarkable that in Lancashire, where property has increased 136 per cent., the mortality has increased from 1 in 46 to 1 in 36; and in Manchester it is 1 in 38, wealth and death walking hand in hand. The question, however, was not only one of bricks and mortar; but the comfort of the dwelling must depend also on the moral and domestic habits of the inmates; and they again cannot be acquired without some amount of daily leisure. Lord Normanby quoted several returns and reports to show that the desired changes in the construction of towns and dwellings could be effected at a comparatively insignificant cost. It had been calculated, that, spreading the charges over a number of years, every house could be completely supplied with water, properly ventilated and drained, streets opened and widened, public parks kept up, and a medical officer of health retained, all at a cost of 15s. to each house. Dr Playfair estimated that £389,000 could be saved to Manchester by the adoption of such measures. The meeting was addressed by Sir R. Inglis, Mr Hawes, Mr Sheil, and others, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"1. That the neglect of the precautions which are necessary to secure the health of towns, such as sewerage, drainage, a due supply of water to the interior of dwelling houses, and an effectual system of cleansing, is the cause of sickness, suffering, and a high rate of mortality to all classes, and that it more especially increases the destitution, and leads to the physical and moral deterioration and the degradation of the people.

"2. That although private voluntary exertion may do much to lessen some of the evils arising from the want of sanitary precautions, yet there are others, and by far the most important, which can be remedied only by legislative interference.

"3. That every improvement in the sanitary condition of a locality, is uniformly attended with a diminution of parochial expense, and that the adoption of effectual and general remedial measures will be less costly than the continuance of the destitution, sickness, premature death, widowhood, and orphanage occasioned by this neglect.

"4. That with a view to support the government in any large and effectual legislative measures of improvement they may propose, and to obtain the co-operation in this purpose of instructed and benevolent persons in every part of the United Kingdom, it is expedient to form an association for the accomplishment more especially of the following objects:—First, to diffuse the valuable information on these subjects elicited by recent investigation, and contained, though in a great degree buried, in official reports. Second, to remove misconception as to the expense of the requisite measures and groundless apprehension as to interference with existing pecuniary interests. To devise and to endeavour to obtain some better means than at present exist for the investigation of the causes of mortality in any locality, and for the more effectual protection of survivors, by the prompt removal of those noxious causes which are proved to be removable."

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.—The anniversary meeting of the Agricultural Protection Society took place on Thursday, at their rooms, Old Bond street. There were about forty persons present. The Duke of Richmond took the chair, and having briefly opened the proceedings, Mr Miles, M.P., read the report, which stated what the society had been doing since the close of the last session of parliament. They had circulated 30,000 copies of the address which had been put forth at the close of the last session of parliament, which was considered to be satisfactory. The friends of protection to British agriculture in parliament had watched over those measures which came under the consideration of the legislature during the last session, and more particularly to the subject of the repeal of the wool duties, and to the Bank Charter bill. The former bill they considered to be favourable to the British agriculturist, and all the modifications made respecting the country banks in the latter bill had been favourable to the agriculturists. The report went on to say that British agriculture had everything to hope, and nothing to fear, from the most minute inquiry—that the Anti-corn-law League had ceased to send about their itinerant lecturers, and were now become a registration club, a ground where the regulations of the Protection Society would prevent them from opposing them—that it was believed large importations of flour had taken place under the Canada Corn bill, and that an inquiry should take place upon that subject, which would be brought under consideration at the next general meeting, which would be held on the 14th of January. The report was unanimously adopted, and after various speeches the meeting was adjourned to the 14th of January.

DINNER TO SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—On Wednesday last Sir Henry Pottinger was entertained at a public banquet, by the merchants of London trading with China and the East Indies, at Merchant Tailors' hall. Among the company were the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, the Marquis of Normanby, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Arundel, the Earl of Clare, the Earl of Lonsdale, Sir John Cam Hobhouse, with other official and ex-official persons; Admiral Sir William Parker, Major-General Sir

John Schoedde, and several officers of the army and navy engaged in China; the chairman of the Bank of England and East India company, and others connected with great trading bodies; Sir William Magnay, and many city gentlemen; several members of parliament; in all about 330 guests. In the reception-room, before the dinner, an address was presented to Sir Henry Pottinger, by Sir George Larpent, on behalf of seventy-three of the principal mercantile firms, congratulating him on the success of his mission to China. The banquet was of the most sumptuous kind: the tables glittered with a profusion of gold and silver. Mr John Abel Smith, M.P., presided; having on his right hand Sir Henry Pottinger, Lord Normanby, and Lord Palmerston; on his left, Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham. The speaking exhibited nothing remarkable, consisting chiefly of mutual congratulations: and the bandying of compliments between Lords Palmerston and Aberdeen.

COMMON COUNCIL.—A court of common council was held on Thursday, and a good deal of routine business was transacted. The report of a committee recommending a petition from Mr Tyler, praying for pecuniary aid towards erecting and endowing the new free church of St Giles's in the Fields, caused a renewed discussion on Puseyism; and eventually the further consideration of the report was deferred for a year; only about five hands being held up for the original motion out of a very full court. It was resolved that a silver cup, valued at 100 guineas, with the freedom of the city, should be presented to Major-general Sir Robert Henry Sale, G.C.B., and also to Major-general Sir William Nott, G.C.B. Some members opposed both motions, on the ground that the Indian wars were unjust, and that the money would be better bestowed in charity. It would seem from the following circular, that the Lord Mayor yielded to the court of Common Council the point upon which the court had resolved that he had interfered with their privileges:—

"*St Swithin's Lane, Dec. 6, 1844.*
"As the deputation, appointed by the members of the court of Common Council yesterday, we beg to report to you, that in an interview we had this morning, with the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, his lordship (after entering fully and most courteously into the views which influenced his lordship in the course he took upon the report from the coal, corn, and finance committee), stated, that the report should be placed on the paper of business to be dealt with by the court at its next meeting.

"We have the honour to be, dear sir, yours faithfully,
"W. H. ASHURST,
THOMAS Q. FINNIS,
D. W. WIRE."

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—This exhibition was visited on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, by immense multitudes, amongst whom were numerous parties of the nobility; and on Saturday, her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured the bazaar with their presence. The adjourned meeting of the club took place at one o'clock on Thursday, with Earl Spencer, the president, in the chair. Lord Hardwicke was unanimously elected a vice-president of the club, in the room of Lord Western, deceased. It was unanimously resolved by the club in future to offer for competition two gold medals instead of one; the first for the best oxen and steers, and the other for the best cow and heifer produced. On Friday evening the forty-sixth anniversary festival of the club took place in the Freemasons' hall, Great Queen street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and about 200 gentlemen sat down to dinner. Earl Spencer, president of the club, presided. The various prizes awarded by the judges were here distributed.

REPEAL OF THE MALT-TAX.—On Friday afternoon a very numerous meeting of tenant farmers, from various parts of the kingdom, was held at the Freemasons' tavern, to consider the propriety of agitating for a repeal of the malt duty. Mr A. Spottiswood was called to the chair, and Mr R. Baker moved the first resolution as follows:—

"That the first source of national wealth being the labour of our industrious population, the first object of laws for the regulation of society should be to encourage industry by such enactments as will best secure permanent and profitable employment for those who live by their labour, and unless permanent relief is given by a removal of the taxes, or revision of the currency, they will be unable to effect that object."

In the course of his address he said, "The poor labourer ought to be exempt from taxation. If it were true that 'the poor should never cease out of the land,' it was right that they should be protected. The condition of the agricultural labourer had for some time been discussed by the various agricultural associations, but they had done nothing to benefit the labourer. Here and there some strips of land had been set apart for cottage gardens; but to what extent could that benefit the labourer? He was not an enemy to allotments; they were good savings' banks for the man who had constant work; but a working man must look to wages—regular wages—for the wants of a family. If the farmer could not cultivate his land profitably, he could not pay his labourers. If the allotments were let, as they often were, at a rent higher than to the rich occupier, the allotment system could do no good to the country generally. If the malt duty were abolished, the labourer would no longer have occasion to resort to the beer-shop, for he would be enabled to brew his own beer at a fourth of the price which he now paid. Mr W. F. Haines, of Monk's hall, Essex, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr J. Ellis, of Barming, Kent, moved the next resolution:—

"That it appears by parliamentary returns, that in former periods the working classes of the country, both agricultural and manufacturing, enjoyed and consumed three times as much per head of nutritious and invigorating malt liquor as they have done since an enormous duty was laid upon malt, while, on the other hand, the comforts and luxuries of other classes, the consumption of foreign wines and spirits, and of deleterious and demoralising compounds, have greatly increased."

Mr Fife seconded the motion. Several other declaratory resolutions were supported by various speakers, and it was finally agreed that the meeting should use its best endeavours to procure a total remission of the malt duty.

MR JEFFERSON'S LECTURE ON PEACE.—On Monday evening, a public lecture was delivered at Fetter Lane chapel, by Mr J. Jefferson, one of the secretaries of the Peace Society, on the above subject. The lecture was intended to show the incompatibility of war with the spirit of the New Testament, and was ably supported by references to the late wars in China and Afghanistan.

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND.—A general court of the corporation of the school for the Indigent Blind was held on Wednesday, at the London Coffee-house, for the purpose of receiving the general and financial report, and on other general business; S. H. Sterry, Esq., presided. It appeared that during the last quarter the amount received was upwards of £5,000, from which, deducting the current expenditure, a balance of £650 remained in the banker's hands. The report of the past year showed the funded stock of the corporation to be £65,728 17s. 7d., the receipts for donations and subscriptions, dividends on stock, &c., amounted to £11,189 6s. 11d. The noble building, having been much beautified and materially enlarged, is now capable of containing an additional number of pupils; and, therefore, in addition to the present number of 68 males and 70 females, the committee have determined that 18 (10 additional) shall be admitted at the election in March.

THE LONDON PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.—The anniversary of this institution was celebrated on Thursday evening by a dinner at the White Hart tavern, Bishopsgate street. The society was established in 1841, and has been, by a very extensive distribution of bread and coals, the means of rendering great assistance to numerous destitute individuals. The chairman (Alderman Challis) alluded to the increase of destitute persons since the introduction of the New Poor law, and expressed his deep regret, that in an effort to remedy abuses which existed, a system had been substituted which had starved charity, and dried up the springs of benevolence. It was the duty of individuals, by aiding such institutions as these, to remedy as much as possible the deficiencies which existed, and endeavour to diminish the miseries and alleviate the privations under which too many in the lanes and alleys of the metropolis were found suffering. A long list of subscriptions was read by Mr J. H. Heeps, the honorary secretary. Amongst the names were—the chairman, £5; Mr R. R. Wood, £20; Mr Masterman, M.P., £5; Mr L. J. Hansard, £6 6s., &c.

DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Metropolitan Drapers' Association was held last week, at the Mechanics' institution, Southampton buildings. Ambrose Moore, Esq., took the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Mr A. S. Thelwall, Mr J. Cumming, Joseph Payne, Esq., and several others. The Chairman made a statement of the objects of the association, and congratulated the meeting that the recent strenuous exertions which had been made to induce the tradesmen of the metropolis to curtail the hours of labour had met with the greatest encouragement both from the employers and their assistants. There still, however, remained much to be done, especially in regard to those more crowded thoroughfares where the custom of evening shopping had become almost a system. The object of the association was to extend the influence of their own practice of shortened hours to those districts, and at the same time to make their proceedings operate generally on the traders of London. He expressed himself sanguine in his expectation that this object would be ultimately attained, a great moral power having been given to their efforts, by the circumstance that the wholesale houses had almost unanimously adopted the system of closing their warehouses at six o'clock. Resolutions were passed expressive of the deep conviction of the meeting that the present late hour system, as pursued by the greater portion of the retail houses of the metropolis, is not only unnecessary for the convenience of the public, and devoid of advantage to the employer, but productive of the most pernicious effects on the physical, intellectual, and moral condition of the assistants; and that the meeting viewed with satisfaction the success that had already attended their efforts to procure an abridgment of the hours of business, and pledged itself to further that object by at all times discountenancing evening shopping, as a custom that could not be too speedily abrogated.

HUNGERFORD AND LAMBETH SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—On Thursday a special general meeting of the proprietors of this company was held at No. 9, Villiers street, Strand, to take into consideration the propriety of raising the sum of £10,000, in addition to the amount already raised, for the purpose of improving the approaches to the bridge. The report stated that the £10,000 was for improving the southern terminus of the bridge, and that the original capital would be amply sufficient to complete the bridge and the works connected therewith. The directors hoped an arrangement with the holders of property on the south side would prevent the necessity for an application to parliament. The report concluded by congratulating the proprietors on the termini of the South Western and Richmond railways, proposed to come almost to the foot of their bridge, and the prospect of the South Eastern and Brighton lines being brought to the same locality.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—The number of deaths during the week ending Saturday, December 7, was 988, that of the preceding week being 1,075, showing a decrease of 87, and the average for five years being 942. In the first class, including epidemic and contagious diseases, there is a con-

siderable decrease, particularly in small-pox and scarlatina. There is an increase, however, in complaints caused by cold weather. Bronchitis is marked 30, while the average is 12; and pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs), 127; average, 79. The deaths from small-pox occurred at the following ages:—Eleven under 1 year; four, 1 to 3 years; four, 3 to 5 years; six, 5 to 10 years; one, 10 years; one, 17 years; and four, 20 to 30 years. Among the violent deaths are six cases. The unfortunate victims, with one exception being very young children, were burnt to death from their clothes taking fire. There are only two suicides recorded.

DESTITUTION IN THE METROPOLIS.—On Saturday night the West-end Institution for the Nightly Relief of the Houseless Poor, which is situated in Market street, Edgeware road, was, for the first time, opened for the reception of inmates, and which is capable of affording accommodation for about 200 men, women, and children, who have their separate wards.

DWELLINGS FOR THE POOR.—In the New Metropolitan Buildings act, which will come into operation on the 1st of January, provision is made in regard to dwellings for the poor. The officers named in the statute have been appointed since the 1st of September, and forms have already been sent to the overseers of the metropolitan parishes, to secure the practical working of the section requiring a return of all rooms in the several parishes which are considered, in the language of the act, to be unfit for dwellings, but which are nevertheless occupied by the poor. The returns will be used to improve the existing habitations of the poorer classes in the metropolitan parishes. Close, undrained, and unventilated rooms are not to be used after a certain period. By the fifty-third section it is enacted that, from the 1st of July, 1846, it shall not be lawful to let separately to hire, as a dwelling, any such room or cellar not constructed according to the schedule annexed, nor to occupy or suffer to be occupied any such room or cellar built underground for any purpose (except for a ware-room or store-room); and that, if any person wilfully let, or suffer to be occupied in any manner aforesaid any underground cellar or room, contrary to the provisions of this act, then, on conviction thereof before two justices of the peace, such person shall be liable to forfeit, for every day during which such cellar or room shall be so occupied, a sum not exceeding 20s., and one-half shall go to the person who shall sue for the same, and the other half to the poor of the parish. It is further provided that, on or before the 1st of January next, the overseers shall return to the official referees the number and situations of the dwellings within their respective parishes of which any underground room or cellar shall be so occupied; and thereupon it shall be the duty of the referees to direct notice to be given to the owners and occupiers of such dwellings as shall appear best calculated to give such owners and occupiers full notice of the existence, nature, and consequence of the enactment, and it shall be the duty of the district surveyors to give full effect to the directions of the official referees. By the schedule it is enacted that, with regard to back yards, or open spaces attached to dwelling-houses, every house hereafter built or rebuilt must have an enclosed back yard or open space of at least one square of a hundred square feet, unless all the rooms of such house can be lighted and ventilated from the street. If any house already built be hereafter rebuilt, there must be at least three-quarters of a square, unless it be lighted from the street. The lowermost rooms of houses, being rooms of which the surface of the floor is more than three feet below the surface of the footway, and the cellars of buildings hereafter to be built or rebuilt, if any such room or cellar be used as a separate dwelling, then the floor thereof must not be below the surface or level of the ground immediately adjoining thereto, unless it have an area, fireplace, and window, and unless it be properly drained. To every lowermost room or cellar there must be an area not less than three feet wide in every part, from six inches below the floor of such room or cellar to the surface or level of the ground adjoining to the front, back, or external side thereof, and extending to the full length of such side; such area, to the extent of at least five feet long and two feet six inches wide, must be in front of the window, and must be open, or covered only with open iron gratings. To every such room or cellar there must be a fireplace, with a window to be opened for ventilation. This act contains upwards of a hundred sections, with numerous schedules annexed.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE DOVER RAILWAY.—On Friday morning a frightful accident occurred near the Bricklayers' Arms station, Old Kent road, by which two men, named Robert Buckley, an engine driver, and Aaron Wilkinson, a stoker, were killed. Several other persons were also severely injured and conveyed to Guy's hospital. It appears that about 20 minutes after midnight the goods train for Dover left the station at the Bricklayers' Arms. The engine (a new one) was attached to the trains, consisting of several trains heavily laden. Unfortunately, just as the train had passed the timber-built viaduct near the Blue Anchor road, the engine exploded with a report which was heard for some miles distant, and the reflection at the moment caused by the fire and steam was so strong, that Deptford dock-yard and the station at the Bricklayers' Arms were quite illuminated. There were three guards at the time with the train, and upon recovering from the stupor into which they were thrown by the occurrence, they discovered that the engine had leaped completely over the side of the railway, and that the tender had broken through the latticed work forming the left side of the line, on to the ground, a depth of nearly eighteen feet. By the aid of their lamps they immediately began to search for the engineer and stoker.

The latter they found about twenty feet from the train, bleeding most profusely from an extensive wound in the head. He was also so much scalded by the sudden escape of the steam that his flesh peeled off upon their attempting to touch him. Search, meanwhile, was made for Buckley, and he was first perceived by the whiteness of his trousers, the knee of which lay exposed from beneath one of the luggage trucks remaining upon the line. By great exertion the load was lifted from the body of the unfortunate man, but he was dead, being literally crushed to a mummy. Such was the force of the explosion, that one of the trucks, full of merchandise, was shattered to pieces, and the engine was thrown into a field several yards from the spot on the line where the accident occurred, the wheels deeply imbedded in the earth, and the body, boilers, and machinery literally splintered to pieces. An inquest was held on the bodies, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned.

ACCIDENT AT DRURY LANE THEATRE.—On Saturday night a frightful occurrence took place at this theatre, during the performance of the "Revolt of the Harem." In the second act of the ballet the ladies of the harem are discovered bathing, among whom Zulica, the royal slave (Miss Webster) is one. During the scene, the gas placed at the bottom of the stage, or under the sunken portion of it, where the water pieces or waves, are placed, caught the light drapery of Miss Webster's dress, and in an instant her whole person was enveloped in flames. The unfortunate young lady rushed round the stage, actually in one blaze, uttering the most heart-rending cries, and was at last caught in the arms of a carpenter, who, with great presence of mind, threw her down and rolled himself over her, and thus extinguished the flames, though, as it appears, at his personal risk, for his hands and face are said to have been much burnt in the generous efforts to rescue the sufferer. Miss Webster was carried into the green room, and from thence to a surgeon's, where it was ascertained that she was so seriously injured as most probably to incapacitate her from ever re-appearing on the stage. The ballet, notwithstanding the alarming occurrence, was concluded in the usual way, though much delay necessarily took place.

ACCIDENT NEAR ALDGATE CHURCH.—Shortly before nine o'clock on Monday night, a dreadful accident, which, it is feared, will be attended with loss of life, occurred opposite Aldgate church, close by the junction of Aldgate with the Whitechapel road. It appeared that Mr Dagget, a commercial traveler, left Romford for the metropolis in a gig, with a high-spirited horse. Upon arriving near Whitechapel church the animal shied and started off at a rapid pace. At a frightful speed he reached the corner leading to the Minories, where two omnibuses were passing each other. Mr Dagget, in order to escape a collision, gently pulled the bearing rein; but the road being narrowed at this spot, and furnished with a temporary kind of platform for foot passengers, the horse ran upon it, amongst the crowd of people. Nine or ten persons were immediately knocked down, including the policeman Goodman, 591. The gig was instantly overturned, and the driver thrown out upon the pavement. A gentleman, seventy years of age, was severely injured. Mr Dagget is also much cut about the head, and bruised all over the body. Six persons were conveyed to the London Hospital, but three of them left, being able to walk home as soon as their contusions were attended to by the house surgeon. Three others are still in the hospital seriously injured. Goodman, it is feared, has received a concussion of the brain, which renders his recovery very doubtful.

FRIGHTFUL DRAY ACCIDENT.—On Monday night, about 8 o'clock, a frightful accident took place in the Blackfriars road to a man named Joseph Monk, a drayman in the employ of Messrs Whitbread and Co. The man was sitting on the shaft, and by some means fell under the wheel, which passed completely over his head. He was carried into the shop of Mr Vinin, a surgeon, of Blackfriars road, who found that his skull was fractured in a most extensive manner. Mr Vinin immediately rendered every aid, and extracted a portion of the skull (about 3 inches square) which had penetrated the brain, and completely exposed it. Mr Vinin then ordered his removal to Guy's hospital, where he now remains, still alive, and, strange to add, quite sensible, to the great astonishment of all the medical gentlemen connected with the hospital.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY IN WOOD STREET, CHEAPSIDE.—The government *Police Gazette*, of Wednesday night, announces a robbery to an enormous extent having taken place at the warehouse of Mr James Oldham, 96, Wood street. The property stolen consisted of an enormous quantity of Brussels handkerchiefs, black silk and satin handkerchiefs, silk vestings, French satin, black satin, velvet scarfs of various kinds, and about £9 in silver. £50 reward is offered for the apprehension and conviction of the offenders.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WESTMINSTER.—On Saturday morning, between the hours of twelve and one, a fire broke out in a carpenter's workshop, belonging to Mr Wardle, situate in Chapel place, immediately opposite the Bluecoat school. An alarm was raised, and the inmates of the adjoining houses were aroused from their slumbers. From the premises containing a large quantity of shavings, wood, and other equally inflammable articles, not many minutes elapsed before the fire had gained possession of every portion of the building. A family, who resided in the lower floor, had barely time to escape. The numerous brigade engines were as quickly as possible at the scene of conflagration, and set to work most vigorously, and in the course of half an hour all danger of the further progress of the fire was at an end, and before two o'clock the flames were com-

pletely extinguished; not, however, until the building, with its contents, was consumed. The origin of the outbreak is unknown. A vast number of the inhabitants, who threw their goods into the open street for protection, will be serious losers by hasty removal, and unfortunately they were all uninsured.

ALARMING FIRE AT LIMEHOUSE.—Shortly before one o'clock on Friday morning, a most destructive fire broke out upon the long line of buildings in the occupation of Messrs Chessor and Co., coopers, &c., in Shoulder-of-Mutton alley, Limehouse, near to Downton's wharf. The police constable upon the beat first perceived flames issuing from the cooperage, an extensive building, not less than 150 feet in length. An alarm was instantly raised, and in a short time engines from various stations of the brigade were upon the spot. The fire progressed most rapidly, illuminating the whole city, the stock being of the most inflammable character, consisting of barrels, staves, hoops, &c. Owing to the firm hold the flames had obtained, considerable time elapsed before any impression could be made upon the body of the fire. The damage done is very considerable. The cause of the fire is not precisely known, but it is the opinion of the proprietor that it arose from the spontaneous ignition of some wet shavings.

IRELAND.

MR O'CONNELL IN WATERFORD.—On Thursday last the Liberator made his entry into Waterford. He was met, soon after his departure from Carrick-on-Suir, by the mayor of Waterford, and a large number of gentlemen in private carriages, in cars, and on horseback, and these, with an immense crowd of persons from Carrick-on-Suir, accompanied him to Rockhouse, where the procession, consisting of the various trades, and others, with flags and banners, awaited him. Several triumphal arches were erected on the line of march. On his arrival, Mr O'Connell proceeded to the town hall, and addressed the multitude from the windows. The banquet was held in the evening, in the large and spacious room of the town hall, which was beautifully fitted up for the occasion. The chair was occupied by Thomas Meagher, Esq., mayor of Waterford, on whose right sat Mr O'Connell, the mayor of Cork, E. B. Roche, M.P., R. A. Fitzgerald, ex-J.P. On his left were the Right Rev. Dr Foran, the mayors of Limerick and Clonmel, Dr Gray, and Alderman Hackett. On Mr O'Connell's health being given, the entire assembly arose, and continued cheering for several minutes. In the course of his speech he said:—

"I don't think we can sufficiently mismanage, even if we designed it, the repeal cause, so as to make it at all doubtful that the union is to be repealed [cheers]. I have no more doubt of it than I have of my own existence [cheers]. Let there be any violent concussion of the British ministry—let war break out in any part of Europe—let Spain become tired of obeying France in her revolutionary insanity—or let France become impatient of conquering Spain—let any country engage in war with another, for England must always be party to a wrangle. There is no event menacing England—there is no event menacing the public peace of the world—that will not give us repeal more readily than I can pronounce the word [cheers]. England would then want the people of Ireland, and the people of Ireland she can have by buying them, for they want a price for their services, and that price is repeal [loud cheers]. It cannot be remote, when we consider the accumulating strength of such a nation as the Irish, amounting, I may say from the first authority, to 900,000 grown up men, not including the boys of from eleven to fourteen, who are rather handy [laughter]. Yes, circumstanced as Ireland is, with the physical force she contains—with the determination she is evincing—with the combination that is rapidly accumulating into an entirety—with those facts before us, and with the state of Europe in our contemplation, I say it is impossible that the union should not soon be repealed [cheers]."

Alluding to Mr Porter's proposal for an Irish militia, he observed:—

"Mr Grey Porter, indeed, talks of calling out the Irish militia, and having 100,000 of them disciplined and armed [cheers]. He says the object he has in doing so is to give 'pluck' to the Irish members. I believe I had people enough to-day about me to give me 'pluck' [cheers], without arraying them in military form; and I tell Mr Grey Porter, although I would rejoice to witness the military discipline of his 100,000 militia, that the moral revolution that is going forward in Ireland can be as well achieved by men in frieze coats as it possibly could by men in scarlet." ["Hear, hear," and cheers].

THE CHARITABLE BEQUESTS ACT.—The agitation against this measure is still carried on very vigorously. Dr Keating, Roman catholic bishop of Ferns, presided at a meeting in Wexford on Sunday last, when he spoke at considerable length, vehemently protesting against the Charitable Bequests act, as calculated to produce the most ruinous consequences as regards the Roman catholic church in this country. Dr Keating thus concluded:—"There seems intended in this act the commencement of a connexion in ecclesiastical matters between the catholic church in Ireland and the state; and, being convinced that such connexion would be ruinous to the church, and damage her usefulness to the people and the country, I feel it my duty to protest against it, and to inform you, my beloved people, of the evils which would flow from such an alliance." On Friday, Mr O'Connell attended a very numerous meeting of the Roman catholic laity and clergy in Waterford, to protest against the Charitable Bequests act. The Mayor presided. Dr Foran, Roman catholic bishop, and several of the leading citizens were present.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND RELIGION.—The *Castlebar Telegraph* says:—"On Sunday last the clergyman officiating in the chapel of this town read the letter of Archbishop MacHale on the Charitable Bequests act from the altar to the congregation

present. While reading the communication, the military officer in command of the vast number of catholic soldiers who were attending mass, stood up, and waving his arm with the dignity and energy of an emperor, motioned them to leave the house of God with unceremonious haste. The confusion created by the move was excessively annoying, disturbing the order and attention of the flock, and inciting fear among timid females and resentment among the men."

FATHER MATHEW.—Mr Theobald Mathew, acknowledging a remittance from Mr L. Murphy, Dublin, writes—"There is not the most distant danger of my again involving myself. The profuse distribution of cards and medals throughout the kingdom will not be necessary in future, and I shall be thus relieved from the risk of incurring debts."

DREADFUL MURDERS.—On last Friday, a murder of a most atrocious nature was committed on a woman respectably dressed, and far advanced in pregnancy, but whose name could not be discovered. On the following day an inquest was held before Messrs Duckett and Gamble, and a respectable jury, who adjourned till next day (Sunday) in order to ascertain, if possible, some clue to the perpetrator of the foul deed. But the police were unsuccessful in their pursuit of the murderer. It appeared, by the evidence of persons examined on the inquest, that the deceased and the supposed murderer were travelling on the road from Tramore to Annstown, at one o'clock on Friday, and at two o'clock on the same day the poor woman was found on the road about 100 yards from a cabin, into which the murderer went to light a pipe, with her head completely smashed; and it is evident, from the appearance of the body, that death must have been instantaneous, as no signs of struggling or protracted death appeared on her person. The hand of justice has not yet overtaken the assassin.—*Waterford Chronicle.* The *Tipperary Vindicator* gives the following account of another murder:—"In this case the parties were nearly related. An uncle was the victim—two brothers the alleged perpetrators of the awful deed which has deprived him of life! Britt is the name of the persons; the scene of the dreadful deed near Inch, Borrisoleigh; the cause of quarrel some dispute about land, or the right of passage through a green lane. On Tuesday, it would appear, they all met in the green lane, the cause of their contention—a violent altercation commenced—blows ensued—and the uncle, overpowered, fell a sacrifice!"

SCOTLAND.

DUTY ON COTTON.—A public meeting of the cotton spinners and manufacturers of Glasgow was held on Wednesday, to receive the report of the committee appointed in February last, and to adopt measures for the repeal of the tax on cotton. Mr James Buchanan, of the firm of James Finlay and Co., presided. The report, which stated the proceedings of the committee since the last public meeting, was read and adopted; and a resolution was unanimously passed, expressive of the determination of the manufacturers of Glasgow to persevere with increased energy, in their efforts to obtain relief from an impost so oppressive and ruinous to British manufacturers in competition with foreign rivals. In the course of the proceedings, Mr Alexander Graham said that the necessity for the repeal of the duty was most urgent; because, besides having no tax on cotton to pay, the American manufacturer had a saving of other 6-16ths of a penny per pound, the extra freight and insurance paid by the British manufacturer; making the premium of the American manufacturer from these two sources just three farthings per pound. The present cabinet, he said, were pledged to the principle of relieving raw materials of manufacture, and had already taken off the duty on sheep's wool and dye-stuffs; and Sir Robert Peel had, on several occasions, expressly declared the cotton tax in particular to be an impost of a most impolitic and dangerous character. The meeting was addressed by various gentlemen, and the proceedings displayed great energy and unanimity.

SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—We understand that the directors of the East India Association of this city have agreed to an address to Sir Henry Pottinger, and that two of their number, who are deputed to present the same, are also charged to invite Sir Henry to a public dinner. The proposal appears to be most favourably received, and gives promise of a large and most respectable turn-out.—*Glasgow Argus.*

THE FREE CHURCH AND ITS COLLEGE.—A great sensation has been produced by the startling fact that £19,000 have been subscribed by nineteen individuals towards the erection of a college for the Free church, and this after such vast sums had been collected for the Sustentation fund, the church building fund, and other purposes. The Free church has but one nobleman, we believe, on its muster roll, and certainly cannot boast of the patronage of the aristocracy. Its adherents belong partly to the lower, but chiefly to the middle classes, and the few among them who are wealthy must have taxed themselves heavily in support of the other schemes and funds before the project in hand was started. The *Scotsman* says it is rumoured, "that Lord Jeffrey, under the signature of 'A Friend,' is one of the nineteen contributors."—*Economist.*

FORGERY.—On Friday, some bills becoming due at several of the Perth banking houses, and none of the parties concerned having appeared, it was discovered, on inquiry, that forgeries to a very considerable amount had been committed. The usual steps being taken under similar circumstances, it was ascertained that the guilty party had absconded. This was no less a personage than the Rev. —, minister of the neighbouring parish of —! No sooner did such an extraordinary circumstance become known,

than it became the subject of everybody's talk; and during the whole of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, up to the hour of post, innumerable rumours and conjectures were in circulation, as to the extent of Mr —'s delinquencies, and the parties involved by his frauds. All that can be stated in the meantime is, that Mr —, with a stipend of £400 a year, has absconded; that there can be little doubt he is guilty of fraud and forgeries to a considerable amount; and we believe that this is all that any one is justified in stating, in the present state of information on such a disagreeable subject.—*Glasgow Argus.*

OUTRAGES IN SUTHERLANDSHIRE.—On the night of Thursday, some wanton individuals attacked the parochial school house of Cline, occupied by Mr Robert Bruce, parochial teacher, and his sister. The miscreants drove two large stones through the window of a room on the ground floor, which, after smashing three panes of glass, struck and severely wounded Miss Bruce, to the danger of her life, while she was asleep in her bed. The guilty parties have not been detected. A reward of 20 guineas has been offered to any one who will give such information as will lead to their apprehension and conviction. Miss Bruce still lies in a very dangerous state of health, in consequence of the injuries then sustained, so much so, that her medical attendants cannot yet report her out of danger. One would suppose that revenge would be satiated with this dastardly outrage, for some time at least; but no, the house occupied by Mr George M'Kenzie, tenant of Moness, of Rogart, was attacked in a similar manner, on the night of Sunday, the 1st inst, while Mr M'Kenzie was engaged in public worship. A great number of panes were smashed in, though most providentially none of the inmates received any material injury. On Thursday night, the servant girl of Mr Bentick, Dunrobin, while out on an errand very late, was struck in the side with a large stone or plod, thrown by some person not discerned from the darkness of the night, and instantly felled to the ground. The poor girl was carried in a state of insensibility, and medical aid promptly procured. She is still in a weak state, and cannot by any means be considered out of danger of losing her life. These cases are truly alarming, but doubly so on account of the authorities being unable to trace out the perpetrators of them.—*Ross-shire Advertiser.*

AN EAST INDIAMAN BURNED.—On Thursday night, about six o'clock, a fire broke out in the ship Scotland, the property of Messrs William Morison and Co., of this city, which arrived at the Broomielaw quay on the same day, with a valuable cargo of East India produce, consisting of rum, cotton, sugar, salt-petre, &c. By the exertions of the superintendent of the Glasgow fire engines, along with the West of England and River Trust fire brigade, the flames were kept in check from about half past six o'clock in the evening until half-past three on Friday morning, when they broke out with great fury through the after hatchway, where a considerable stock of rum was stowed, and continued for some time to blaze without any prospect of abatement. The fire brigade continued to pour water into the hold for eight hours, from six branch pipes, so that on the return of the tide the quantity of water furnished by the engines filled the ship entirely, within about two feet of the deck. Notwithstanding this the fire continued to spread under the decks, and ultimately got such a thorough mastery of the vessel that all hope of saving the cargo was given up. By about half-past four o'clock the main mast, which had been previously cut through with a saw, in order to save it from the devouring element, gave way with a tremendous crash, and fell into the river. It was speedily followed by the mizen mast, which, having been burned through, descended right astern, nearly crushing in its progress a boat's crew who were engaged scuttling the ship. At this time the flames were brought under in the fore-castle and amidships, but continued to rage with violence in the cabin and quarter deck. By the well directed efforts of the fire brigade, however, they were subdued, and the ship, being now completely scuttled, settled down into the river almost a total wreck. The Scotland was 388 tons register, and was one of the finest and fastest-sailing ships belonging to the Clyde. Her cargo on this occasion, which was of the most valuable description, has been almost completely destroyed.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

A FAMILY JOB.—The emoluments of the principal registrarship are at present divided between two members of the happy family of Moore—the Reverend George Moore, and the Reverend Robert Moore. The extent of the Moore pickings are worth calculating:—

First come the two joint principal registrars of the Prerogative court, the Reverends George and Robert Moore	£7588	9	10
Next, the clerk of the seat No. 3 in the Prerogative court, the Reverend George Bridges Moore	1148	19	
Clerk of the seat No. 5, John Moore, Esq., (just deceased)	265	18	10
But this is not all that John Moore had. He was also registrar to the vicar-general, for which he got	275	8	7
And registrar of the Archbishop of Canterbury's court of Peculiars, which brought him no more than	10		
But then every little helps, so John Moore halved with William Moore the profits of the registrarship of the Peculiar court for the deanery of South Malling, in the diocese of Chichester, which are in all ..	79	17	2
Then Philip Charles Moore is one of Mr Under-secretary Sutton's deputy registrars, and receives	236	7	7
So that the total annual pickings of the Moores amount to	9375	4	10

—*Morning Chronicle.*

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

The Lord-lieutenant of Ireland has sent £50 to the Mathew fund; and Lord Eliot, the Irish secretary, £25 to the same.

The total number of houses in the United States is 1,300,000, while in England we have 849,147—not half the quantity in proportion to the population.

The directors of the Manchester and Birmingham railway company have offered a premium of twenty guineas for the best design for carriages suited for excursion trips and private parties.

Mr Laing calculates the average expense of English railways, per mile, as follows:—Parliamentary £1,000, law charges, engineering, and direction £1,600, land and compensation £5,000, railway works and stations £26,000, and carrying establishment £3,000.

The *Oxford Herald* says:—"It is anticipated that the income tax will be greatly modified, but that no other impost of any importance will be removed or reduced."

The Marquis of Londonderry is stated in the *Morning Post* to have "expended upwards of £80,000" in city of Durham elections!

The subscription to the Rowland Hill testimonial closed on Saturday. The amount collected considerably exceeds £10,000.

In Lincolnshire, last week, one jury is said to have found a man charged with stealing pigeons, guilty of manslaughter! and another, "guilty, but not much!"

The *Leeds Times* states that a distraint has just been levied on a poor woman in Huddersfield for 1s. 3d., demanded by the vicar of Almondsbury as "Easter dues," with 8s. costs! The bailiffs, finding nothing else in the house worth seizing, took the children's clothes!

In a New Orleans paper, there lately appeared the following advertisement—"Wanted, a female who has a knowledge of fitting boots of a good moral character."

The Rev. T. Hamer lately delivered a lecture on astronomy, at the village of S—, near Barnard Castle. After the lecture, one of his audience declared that he had never heard such "stuff" in all his life. "He says 'at t'world turns round every day; an' aw've kent S—iver sin' aw were born, an' its just whaur it always was!'"

There is no widow so utterly widowed in her circumstances as she who as a drunken husband; no orphan so perfectly destitute as he who has a drunken father.

To discover truth is to do good on a grand scale. The detection of an error, the establishment of a fact, the determination of a doubtful principle, may spread its benefits over large portions of the human race, and be the means of lessening the misery or increasing the happiness of unborn generations.—*Bailey*.

The sum of £344,136 15s. 11d. was paid for wages and salaries of persons employed for the prevention of smuggling in 1842, and £347,809 1s. 4d. in 1843. Ice has become a great article of export in America—60,000 tons are annually sent from Boston to southern ports, the East and West Indies, &c.

By the death of the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, a pension of £7,000 a-year and the rangership of Greenwich park fall in.

A pension of £5,000 a-year reverts to the crown by the demise of Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., he having received that pension on his return from his mission to Russia.

On dit that the grand clause of the rumoured ministerial bill for the reform of the game laws will limit the price which game dealers are to charge the public to so low a figure, as to do away with all temptation to poachers!

The effective military force now in Ireland is 26,000 men, exclusive of the enrolled Chelsea Pensioners and 10,000 armed policemen.

"Mamma," inquired an interesting juvenile of seven, "do sheep write?" "No, child." "Then why are they provided with pens?"

Mr Joseph Sturge, the teetotaler, at a complete suffrage soirée in Edinburgh this week, confessed himself to be an admirer of "*Punch*!"

The Rev. Mr Gillespie, of America, in his "Lectures to Young Men on the Formation of Character," says very forcibly, "I can't do it" never did anything—"I'll try" has worked wonders—and "I will do it" has performed prodigies.

When the railroad to Marseilles is finished, we shall be within seven or eight days' journey of Syria.

A letter from Christiania states that there has been received from one of the mines a mass of silver ore, weighing 1680 lbs., which will probably yield 840 lbs. of pure silver.

No fewer than 220 notices and plans of new railways were, on Saturday, the 30th ult., deposited at the office of the board of trade.

The *Liverpool Mail* denounces "extemporary prayer" as "sinful!" An admirable authority, truly.

The munificent sum of £1,000 has been given through the Rev. Hugh McNeile, of Liverpool, to be applied to the cause of the Irish Society in scriptural reading in Ireland.

The intelligence of the complete closing of the Elbe by ice, which reached Manchester on Saturday, has put a sudden stop to purchases of yarn for Germany.

A gentleman advertises for board in a quiet, genteel family, where there are two or three beautiful and accomplished young ladies, and where his society "will be deemed a sufficiency for board, lodging, washing, and other et ceteras."

In the window of the servants' registry office, in Wells, may be seen, "Place wanted by a young woman, as cook, in a respectable family, where a pious footman is kept, of high church principles."

Literature.

The Missionary's Reward: or, the Success of the Gospel in the Pacific. By GEORGE PRITCHARD, Esq., with an Introduction by the Rev. J. A. JAMES. Snow, Paternoster row. 1844. pp. 209.

THE first glance at this little book will disappoint expectation. The reader will naturally expect in it a record of the late events in Tahiti, whereas it was written, though not published, before their occurrence; and in all Mr Pritchard's narrative a studied silence on those transactions is preserved. Its history is thus given:—

"When I was in England two years since, many friends expressed a strong desire that I would publish the statements which, on various occasions, I had made, as illustrative of the power of the gospel on the minds and conduct of the savage and idolatrous inhabitants of the great Pacific. At that time, my engagements were too numerous to allow me to comply with their wishes. It was then suggested that I might prepare a small work for publication during my passage to Tahiti, and agreeably to this suggestion the following pages were written. This will account for the want of reference to the present state of affairs at Tahiti. The omission is, however, well supplied by the introduction of my valued friend and former pastor, the Rev. J. A. James, who has, in terms equally faithful and affecting, described the mournful condition of that once peaceful island."—Preface.

The friends of missions will find in this volume a very pleasant, simple, and affecting detail of those events which took place between the close of the period of Mr Williams's publication and the commencement of the recent tragedy in that ill-fated quarter of the world. The introduction furnishes the following note, which, as it relates to some opinions expressed in this journal, it is proper to extract:—

"It is true that a law was passed by the government of Tahiti, forbidding the circulation, either by natives or foreigners, of any other religion than that already taught to the people. This law, however, does not appear to have been ever enforced, and its promulgation is to be regretted as erroneous in principle, and was condemned by many of the missionaries; but it was suggested by the French authorities themselves; and, deeming themselves safe under such sanction, the Queen and chiefs enacted it."—Ellis, p. 410.

We entertain great respect for Mr Pritchard, from whose character the atrocious calumnies, with which he has been aspersed, fall off without injury. His volume is full of interest.

The Sequential System of Musical Notation; a Proposed New Method of Writing Music in strict Conformity with Nature, and essentially free from all Obscurity and Intricacy. By ARTHUR WALLBRIDGE. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., London.

MR WALLBRIDGE is a true radical reformer; and had he proposed so daring and complete an innovation on a time-honoured, if defective, system, at any other period than in the present age of novelties, he would have been laughed at as a visionary. At the present time, however, old habits and prejudices have received so many rude shocks in their encounters with new and startling discoveries, that the public mind is prepared to listen to anything novel, whether it possesses intrinsic excellence or not. Nor do we see why an improved and simplified system of musical notation should not find favour with the public, when the new science of phonography, which proposes to effect far more radical alterations in the whole English language is received with so much approbation. It would be impossible, within any reasonable limits, to give an intelligible explanation of Mr Wallbridge's plan. This can only be gathered by a careful perusal of the work itself. It completely sets aside the present system of notation. Instead of five, we have three lines to the staff; ledger lines and signatures are dispensed with; and the key board of the piano forte has been divided into "sequences," containing the two scales as at present, but differently arranged. From a careful examination of the scheme, we are bound to express our opinion that it is an immense improvement on the system now in vogue. Whether the musical public, and especially musical professors, will be inclined to discard all their prejudices and predilections in favour of the present system, is a doubtful point. Mr Wallbridge does not disparage these difficulties, and is prepared for disappointment. If he fails in inducing the public to adopt his radical reform, he will not be the first of his class who has been disappointed in the success of a plan which is based on sound principles; and it may be that, although his scheme may make but little progress in his experience, it may at some future time be universally adopted.

M'Phun's Catechisms of Universal Knowledge—Miscellaneous Elementary Knowledge. Seventeenth Thousand. pp. 71.

Scripture References. By CHARLES LECKIE. Twelfth Thousand. pp. 66. Glasgow: W. R. M'Phun.

WE have traveled heretofore by Mr M'Phun's manuals, greatly to our satisfaction. These little works diminish nothing of our favourable prepossessions. The former is an admirable volume for a teacher, or for a mother with a child on her knee: the latter appears a very compact and complete analysis of Christian doctrine.

Pinnock's Mangnall's Questions. Arnold, Paternoster row. 1844. pp. 544.

It was but the other day we were regretting, in our instruction of our children, the loss of an earlier edition of this capital book of reference. We set great store by it now that we have regained it; especially since it has amended one great error which formerly belonged to it—that of deficient arrangement.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. *The Church*. Vol. I. 1844.
2. *Tahiti*. By MARK WILKS.
3. *Essays on Christian Union*.
4. *The Union Magazine*. Vol. I. 1844.
5. *The Sunday School Teacher's Class Register*.
6. *Notes on Scripture Lessons*.

7. *The Union Hymn Book for Scholars, with Tunes*.
8. *The Child's Own Book*, for 1844.
9. *The Christmas Tree; a Present from Germany*.
10. *The Baptist Almanack*, for 1845.

Religious Intelligence.

BAPTIST LITERATURE.—On Wednesday evening, Nov. 13th, a large and influential meeting of ministers and gentlemen, convened by circular, was held in the library of the Baptist Mission house, Moor-gate street, to receive the report of a provisional committee, formed in the month of August, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of forming a society for the publication of the works of old baptist writers, on the plan of the Parker and Wycliffe societies. Dr Steane was called to the chair. At the request of the committee, Mr Underhill, with whom the project originated, proceeded to give a sketch of the history and literature of the baptist denomination during the period from which the reprints should be selected. He commenced by tracing the appearance of baptist sentiments in this country as coincident with the movements and emigrations of the persecuted Albigenses. Indications of their presence in England occur from the twelfth century downwards, till, at the close of the sixteenth and commencement of the seventeenth centuries, the progress of political affairs, consequent on the reformation, rendered possible a more free and open exposition of their views. The earliest writings of English baptists extant are those of Smyth and Helwys, who were among the exiles that the persecutions of the first Stuarts banished to the states of Holland. Many interesting topics were referred to, exemplifying the opinions, the character, the sufferings, and the labours of the baptists at that trying period, and various reasons were given why the present period should be embraced for rescuing their works from oblivion, and for honouring men who, by their writings and their blood, assisted in laying the foundations of that liberty, both civil and religious, we now enjoy. On the motion of Drs Cox and Price, it was unanimously resolved that a society should be formed for the publication of the works of the early English and other baptist divines. After some discussion, the constitution of the society was adopted. The title was referred to the council for consideration, and the originally proposed designation, "The Hansard Knollys Society," has been since confirmed. The officers and council of the society were then chosen, embracing the leading ministers and others of the denomination.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS.—A numerous meeting of teachers and friends of Sunday schools, assembled on Monday, Dec. 9, in the Friends' meeting-house, which was kindly lent for the purpose of forming the West Bedfordshire Sunday School Union, intended to embrace the schools within a circle of nine miles round Leighton. Mr Joseph Maitland, of London, presided, and, after addresses had been delivered by Messrs Latter and Watson, two of the secretaries of the London Union, the respective resolutions were moved and seconded by Messrs E. Adey, J. Andrews, T. Carter, J. Mason, J. Cooper, Inwards, Basset, and Lawford. One of the ministers who took part in the proceedings, observed that he had formerly been a scholar in a class conducted by one of the members of the deputation, and he attributed his first serious impressions to the instructions received in the school. Mr Basset, a member of the Society of Friends, undertook the office of treasurer to the newly-formed society, which gives promise of much usefulness.

STOCKWELL.—Designational services, in connexion with the settlement of Mr D. Thomas as pastor of the independent church and congregation, were conducted on Wednesday, the 4th inst. The morning engagements were introduced by Mr E. Richards, Wandsworth; Mr A. J. Morris (Holloway) explained the polity of a Christian church; Mr Caleb Morris presented the designational prayer; Dr Leif-child delivered the charge; and Mr J. Arundel concluded by prayer. A large number of ministers, and other friends, then retired from the chapel to an excellent dinner provided for the occasion, after which speeches were delivered by Dr Leifchild, J. Hill (Clapham), J. Arundel, D. Thomas, and Mr Roberts, from America. The evening services were commenced by Mr J. Hill, after which Dr Jenkyn addressed the church and congregation, and Mr J. Davies (Linton) offered the concluding prayer. Messrs Eldridge (Brixton), Waraker (Tooting), Mirams (Usher street), Curwen (Plaistow), Lyons (Union street), Neller, and Williams, aided in conducting the devotional services of the day.

ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE.—Mr H. B. Creak, M.A., of the London University, and late of Spring Hill college, Birmingham, has accepted a unanimous invitation to succeed Mr R. M. Miller, as pastor of the independent church in this town.

WHITCHURCH.—On Thursday, the 5th instant, Mr R. Breeze, late of Lofthouse, Yorkshire, was publicly recognised as the pastor of the independent church, Whitchurch, Hampshire. Mr E. Amery (baptist) commenced the service by reading the scriptures and prayer; Mr J. S. Pearsall, of Andover, delivered the introductory discourse, and gave a lucid view of the nature of a Christian church; Mr J. Moreton, of Overton, asked the questions, and received the confession of faith; Mr J. S. Pearsall offered the recognition prayer; and Mr J. Kelsey, of Horncastle, delivered an affectionate charge to the pastor and the flock.

MILKSHAM, WILTS.—Mr Charles Daniell, baptist minister, formerly of George street chapel, Hull, has accepted a unanimous invitation, from the baptist church meeting in this place, to become their pastor, and entered upon his new course of engagements in the middle of November.

BIRTH.

Dec. 14, Mrs SOULE, St John's hill, Battersea, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 10, at Westgate chapel, Bradford, Yorkshire, Mr JACOB LINDEN, Stanningley, to ELIZABETH, daughter of Mr Benjamin GREENWOOD, Shipley.

Dec. 10, at the registrar's office, Ripon, Mr G. W. M'CREE, baptist minister, Boroughbridge, to Miss DOROTHY BROTHERTON, of Lanthorpe, near that place.

Dec. 11, at Belgrave chapel, Leeds, Mr ISAAC DODGSHUN, Morley, to ELIZA, third daughter of Mr Abraham NAYLON, of Leeds.

Dec. 11, at the independent chapel, Grimshaw street, Preston, Mr RICHARD BOND, of Knowle green, Ribchester, to ESTHER, eldest daughter of Mr William HAYHURST, independent minister, of Ribchester.

Dec. 11, at the Friends' meeting house, St Austell, Mr GEORGE ROBERTS, of Tavistock, youngest son of Mr Thomas Roberts, of Condurrow, in the parish of St Clement, to JANE, second daughter of Mr John RAW, of Trethevey, in the parish of St Mabyn.

Dec. 12, at the registrar's office, London, Mr G. B. JOHNSON, minister of the gospel, Doncaster, Yorkshire, to FANNY, eldest daughter of S. DUFF, Esq., Topcroft hall, Norfolk.

Dec. 12, at Ramsgate, Mr MORRIS UPTON, of Folkestone, Kent, to Miss FRANCES WRIGHT, of Ramsgate, being the 55th marriage solemnised in the independent chapel.

Dec. 12, at Battersea chapel, JAMES COLLIS, to ELIZABETH BOWMAN, both of Battersea.

Dec. 13, at the independent chapel, Beccles, Mr ALFRED PARKER, to CAROLINE, the youngest daughter of the late Mr John GOWER, of Flixton, Suffolk.

Dec. 13, at St George's, Hanover square, the Count DE JARNAC, eldest son of Viscount De Chabot, and nephew of the Duke of Leinster, to the Hon. GERALDINE AUGUSTA FOLEY, second daughter of the late, and sister of the present, Lord Foley.

Dec. 14, at the same place, Sir FRANCIS HASTINGS C. DOYLE, Bart., to Miss WYNN, daughter of the Right Honourable Charles Watkin W. Wynn, M.P.

DEATHS.

Oct. 14, SUSAN, the beloved wife of Mr G. P. EVANS, baptist missionary, Manchester, Jamaica, deeply regretted.

Dec. 8, aged 33, SARAH ALICE, the beloved wife of J. R. MUMFERTY, Esq., dentist, Dover.

Dec. 11, at his residence, Richmond, J. DAY, Esq., aged 76; calm, resigned, and exercising unwavering faith in the power and grace of the Redeemer.

Dec. 13, SEPTIMUS, the infant son of Mr John BIRD, pastor of the baptist church Hammersmith, aged 7 months.

The facetious Dr B. B—, of W—, having inadvertently preached one of his early sermons for the third time, one of his parishioners having observed it said to him after the service, "Doctor, the sermon you gave us this morning having had three several readings, I move that it now be passed."

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, December 13.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 5 and 7 Wm IV., cap. 85:

Eden Wesleyan chapel, Keighley, Yorkshire.

Baptist Ebenezer chapel, Bacup, Lancashire.

Charlwood Union chapel, Charlwood common, Surrey.

BANKRUPTS.

ATTWATER, WILLIAM, 24, Devonshire street, Queen square, dyer, Dec. 19, Jan. 28: solicitor, Mr Joseph Whitaker, Farnival's inn, Holborn.

BENTLEY, HENRY, Liverpool, commission agent, Dec. 20, Jan. 23: solicitors, Mr Oliver, Old Jewry, and Mr D. Evans, Liverpool.

BERESFORD, THOMAS, Lincoln, boat owner, Dec. 24, Jan. 14: solicitors, Messrs Galworthy and Co., Cook's court, London; Mr Andrew, Lincoln; and Messrs Payne and Co., Leeds.

CREIGH, BENJAMIN, and CREIGH, THOMAS RUSSELL, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, cartwrights, Dec. 19, Feb. 3: solicitors, Mr George T. Gibson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Messrs Maples and Co., Frederick's place, Old Jewry.

FORSTER, JOHN, Atinley, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer, Dec. 24, Jan. 21: solicitors, Mr William Thomas Smith, Leeds, and Messrs Wigglesworth and Co., 5, Gray's Inn square.

FRANCIS, ABRAHAM, Halkin, Flintshire, ironfounder, Dec. 23, Jan. 22: solicitors, Messrs Milne and Co., Temple, London, and Messrs Roberts and Co., Flintshire.

HARROLD, GEORGE, late of Trevallyn, near Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, but now of Birmingham, merchant, Dec. 24, Jan. 21: solicitors, Messrs A. and T. S. Ryland, Birmingham.

LIBBIS, SAMUEL, Stratton Saint Mary, Norfolk, innkeeper, Dec. 24, Jan. 21: solicitors, Mr F. G. Abbott, 3, Roll's yard, Chancery lane, and Mr Day, Norwich.

PARSONS, SAMUEL, Manchester, paper hanger, Dec. 24, Jan. 21: solicitors, Messrs Edge and Parker, Manchester, and Mr Thomas Jones Mawe, New Bridge street, Blackfriars, London.

SHEPHERD, CHARLES, 51, Wynatt street, Clerkenwell, Dec. 20, Jan. 24: solicitors, Messrs Buchanan and Grainger, 8, Basinghall street.

STOCKLEY, RICHARD, Ramsgate, upholsterer, Dec. 23, Jan. 22: solicitor, Mr Llewellyn, Cook's court, Lincoln's Inn fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ROSE, JOHN, Invergordon, ironmonger, Dec. 18, Jan. 8.

WEIR, JAMES, Kilmarnock, tobaccoist, Dec. 19, Jan. 9.

WOODER, PET, Edinburgh, solicitor, Dec. 19, Jan. 9.

Tuesday, December 17th.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

BUTTERS, WILLIAM COWLAND, Sewardstone, Essex, silk throwster.

BANKRUPTS.

BLOCKLEY, RICHARD, Crews, Cheshire, linen draper, Jan. 3, 23: solicitors, Messrs Makinson and Sanders, 3, Elm court, Middle Temple, London; and Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester.

FOTHERGILL, FRANCIS, and M'INNES, JAMES, Bell's Close, Northumberland, lampblack manufacturers, Jan. 7: solicitors, Messrs Chisholm and Co., 64, Lincoln's inn fields, London; Mr William Loekey Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Mr Kent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

FRASER, SAMUEL, Nottingham, grocer, Jan. 6, 28: solicitors, Mr S. Maples, Nottingham; and Mr James Motteram, Birmingham.

THORLEY, JAMES, Northampton, glass man, Dec. 31, Jan. 24: solicitors, Messrs Smith and Taylor, 3, Basinghall street.

WATSON, LEONARD, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, smith, Dec. 23, Jan. 28: solicitor, Mr Stephen Walters, 36, Basinghall street.

WORTH, WILLIAM ALFRED, Hampstead, victualer, Jan. 2, Feb. 18: solicitor, Mr Pyke, Lincoln's inn fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

GLASS, ELIZABETH, Edinburgh, printer, Dec. 25, Jan. 22.

M'FARLANE, JAMES, Glasgow, dyer, Dec. 23, Jan. 20.

MOON, GEORGE, Russellmill, Fifeshire, millspinner, Dec. 20, Jan. 10.

SCOTT, DAVID, Dundee, grocer, Dec. 20, Jan. 10.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The public securities continue very steady, and as regards the unfunded debt, there is a slight tendency to advance.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ditto for Opening	100	100	100	100	100	100
3 per cent. Reduced	100	100	100	100	100	100
New 3 per cent.	103	103	103	103	103	103
Long Annuities	12	12	12	12	12	12
Bank Stock	207	207	208	208	208	208
India Stock	—	—	286	286	—	—
Exchequer Bills	56pm	56pm	56pm	56pm	56pm	56pm
India Bonds	—	—	76pm	76pm	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	37
Belgian	102	Peruvian	27
Brazilian	88	Portuguese 5 per cents	84
Buenos Ayres	364	Ditto converted	56
Columbian	14	Russian	119
Danish	—	Spanish Active	25
Dutch 2½ per cents	64	Ditto Passive	64
Ditto 5 per cents	99½	Ditto Deferred	16

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	80	London & Birm. ½ Shares	24
Birmingham & Gloucester	96	London and Brighton	50
Blackwall	67	London & Croydon Trunk	17
Bristol and Exeter	71	London and Greenwich	10
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Ditto New	22
Eastern Counties	14	Manchester and Leeds	113
Edinburgh and Glasgow	62	Midland Counties	109
Great Junction	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	—
Great North of England	129	Midland and Derby	79
Great Western	148	Ditto New	—
Ditto Half	88	South Eastern and Dover	39
Ditto Fifths	28	South Western	82
London and Birmingham	223	Ditto New	11

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Dec. 16.

The show of wheat was rather short, and was cleared off at fully the currency of this day's night. Free foreign meets limited demand at previous rates.

The quantity of barley on sale proved quite equal to the demand, and sales proceeded slowly at last Monday's currency. Beans and Peas were in good supply, and the turn cheaper. Oats moved off in retail quantities, at fully previous terms.

Wheat, Red New	39 to 46	Malt, Ordinary	46 to 60
Fine	48 to 51	Pale	60 to 65
White	44 to 50	Rye	28 to 34
Fine	50 to 54	Peas, Hog	33 to 34
Flour, per sack	33 to 47	Maple	33 to 34
Barley	24 to 28	Boilers	32 to 36
Malting	31 to 38	Beans, Ticks	32 to 36

Beans, Pigeon	32 to 38	DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.	
Harrow	33 to 37	Wheat	20s. 0d.
Oats, Feed	20 to 22	Barley	3 0
Fine	22 to 24	Oats	6 0
Poland	21 to 23	Rye	9 6
Potato	22 to 24	Beans	5 6
		Peas	7 6

Wheat	45s. 2d.	Wheat	45s. 10d.
Barley	34 9	Barley	35 5
Oats	21 10	Oats	21 7
Rye	31 2	Rye	33 4
Beans	37 5	Beans	37 10
Peas	36 4	Peas	35 7

SEEDS.

The inquiry for seeds was extremely slow this morning, and the transactions were unimportant, buyers being unwilling to pay the prices asked.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	52s. to 58s.	English, red	— to —
Baltic, ditto	— to —	Ditto, white	— to —
Ditto, crushing	38 to 42	Flemish, pale	— to —
Medit. & Odessa	38 to 40	Ditto, fine	— to —
Hempseed, small	65 to 38	New Hamb., red	— to —
Large	— to —	Ditto, fine	— to —
Canary, new	53 to 56	Old Hamb., red	— to —
Extra	54 to 58	Ditto, fine	— to —
Carraway, old	44 to 46	French, red	— to —
New	48 to 50	Ditto, white	— to —
Ryegrass, English	— to —	Coriander	15 to 18
Scottish	— to —	Old	— to —
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	12 to 17	English, new	23s. to 25s.
White	14 to 18	Linseed cakes	— to —
Trefoil	— to —	English	10s. 10s. to 11s.
Old	— to —	Foreign	6s. 15s. to 7s.
Tares, new	5s. 6d. to 6s. 3d.	Rapeseed cakes	— to —

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Dec. 16.

In Irish bacon considerable business has been done at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per cwt, and the market closed with a strong and healthy appearance. Prices of foreign—Friesland, 116s. to 120s.; Kiel, 106s. to 116s.; Leer, 90s. to 96s. per cwt. For bacon the demand was good, and the stock on hand nearly cleared off at about 1s. per cwt. over previous rates. There is nothing new to mention of bale and tierce middles or hams. Lard firm in price, but not quite so active in demand.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 16.

Very little business has been done in hops since our last. Prices are firm, and it is anticipated there will be more doing after Christmas at advanced rates, as old hops have been cleared off, and it is calculated that fully three-fourths of the last crop has been taken off the market.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 16.

The contrary winds have continued through the past week, which has prevented the arrivals of potatoes from all parts; consequently, there were only a few small lots in the market for sale, and they sold at various advanced prices.

York Reds	50 to 70	Kent & Essex Whites	50 to 55
Perth do.	55 to 60	Wisbeach Kidneys	— to 60
Early Devons do.	— to 65	Do. Whites	50 to 55
Cornwall do.	— to 65	Guernsey Blues	50 to 60
Jersey Blues	50 to 55	Prince Regents	55 to 60

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 16.

This was the great Christmas market, and was well attended, both by buyers and sellers. Owing to the sudden change in the weather, which was a great disappointment to those who had stock in the market, the beef trade was in a very sluggish state, and, with the exception of a few of the finest animals, the highest general figure did not exceed 4s. 6d. per 8lbs. The numbers and quality of the beasts exceeded those of last year. Very few foreign beasts or sheep were on sale, and there was scarcely any inquiry for them. The imports for the United Kingdom, since Monday last, have amounted to 180 oxen and cows, and 200 sheep, in for the most part, good condition. In the quality of the sheep a very great improvement was noticed; indeed scarcely so fine a collection of half-breeds was ever known on such an occasion as the present. The mutton trade was in a very sluggish state, yet the currencies obtained on this day's night were supported. The number of calves was good, while the veal trade ruled heavy at last week's prices. In pigs very little was doing at our quotations. At the close of the market nearly the whole of the stock was disposed of.

Beef	2s. 10d. to 4s. 6d.	Veal	3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Mutton	2 8 to 4 4	Pork	3 0 to 4 0

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
Friday 1,492	4,530	147	379
Monday 5,713	36,970	111	362

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 16.

Inferior Beef	2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d.	Inf. Mutton	2s. 8d. to 3s. 0d.
Middling do	3 4 to 3 6	Mid. ditto	3 2 to 3 4
Prime large	3 6 to 3 8	Prime ditto	3 6 to 3 8
Prime small	3 8 to 3 10	Veal	3 4 to 4 4
Large Pork	8 to 8 8	Small Pork	3 6 to 4 0

COTTON.

A fair active business has been transacted on each succeeding day, and the market has preserved a steady appearance up to the present time. There is not, however, any movement going on which threatens materially to affect the low scale of quotations. 8,000 American and 3,000 Surats have been taken on speculation. 39,420 bags have been sold this week.

WOOL.

There is firmness in the market, and the tendency of prices is upwards. The manufacturers buy cautiously. The quantity of foreign received since our last has been 434 bales, of which 446 were from Turkey, 46 from Russia, and 12 from Germany.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Dec. 14.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	75s. to 95s.	New Clover Hay	90s. to 120s.
New ditto	— to —	Old ditto	— to —
Useful Old ditto	96 to 104	Oat Straw	32 to 34
Fine Upland ditto	105 to 110	Wheat Straw	36 to 38

COAL EXCHANGE, Dec. 16.

Stewart's, 25s. 0d.; Hetton's, 26s. 0d.; Braddyll's Hettons, 30s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 19.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, Dec. 17.

TEA.—The deliveries are 505,000lbs for the week, and the market has a firm appearance. Ordinary Twankay are selling at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3½d., and common sound Congou at 10½d. to 11d. per lb. cash.

COFFEE.—1500 bags Ceylon sold at a further decline of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Fine ordinary Plantation sorts sold at 58s. to 59s.; Pea Berry, 63s. to 71s.

SUGAR.—100 hds Barbadoes were sold in auction at 62s. 6d. to 64s. 6d. The total purchases amount to 450 hds and tierces. In refined goods there was not much done. Standard lumps selling at 73s., and brown grocery at 71s. 6d. to 72s. per cwt. Bonded crushed are in demand at 50s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—St Petersburg yellow candle is selling at 40s. 3d. to 40s. 2d. per cwt on the spot, and 40s. 3d. per cwt from the scale.

Advertisements.

METROPOLITAN COMPLETE SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE will meet at Hart's hotel, Aldersgate street, every Monday Evening, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of enrolling members, and furnishing information. A. COCKSHAW, Hon. Sec.

ECLECTIC REVIEW.

AT a MEETING of the FRIENDS of CIVIL and RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, held in GREY FRIAR'S SESSION HOUSE (Dr King's), GLASGOW, on THURSDAY, the 28th of NOVEMBER,

JOHN CRUM, Esq., in the Chair,

Dr Price, Editor of the "Eclectic Review," having made a highly satisfactory statement regarding the principles of the Review, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. Dr Wardlaw; seconded by the Rev. Dr Heugh:—

I. That this meeting has much pleasure in expressing its sense of the great ability with which, under the superintendence of its present respected Editor, the "Eclectic Review" has been conducted—of the extensive information it has been the means of circulating in the various departments of Literature, Science, and Art—of its sound and liberal principles on the important and stirring questions of Civil, and especially Religious Liberty, and of free and unfettered commerce—and of the power and fidelity with which it has ever come forward in defence of the great principles of the doctrine and morality of the Bible.

Moved by the Rev. Dr Robson; seconded by the Rev. Dr Eadie:—

II. That there are pressing reasons why, in the present circumstances of the country, this journal should receive decided and augmented support.

Moved by H. E. Crum, Esq.; seconded by D. Anderson Esq.:—

III. That the following gentlemen be requested to act as a Committee for following out these Resolutions in Glasgow and its vicinity:—

Rev. Dr Wardlaw.	Baillie Anderson.
— Dr Heugh.	Messrs John Crum.
— Dr Struthers.	— John Hamilton.
— Dr Eadie.	— Duncan Hunter.
— Dr Robson.	— Robert Kettle.
— Dr King.	— David Anderson.
— Dr M'Farlane.	— Peter Hamilton.
— Alexander Thomson.	— H. Langlands.
— James Paterson.	— G. Robson.
— William Anderson.	— Alexander Black.
— H. M. Macgill.	— H. E. Crum.

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW.

AT a MEETING of GENTLEMEN favourable to the interests of the above Journal, held in the Town Library, Leicester, on Monday, the 16th inst, J. CRIPPS, Esq., in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. J. SMEDMORE, and seconded by C. B. ROBINSON, Esq.:—

"That this meeting, deeply impressed with the eminent service which the *Eclectic Review* has rendered to the interests of sacred literature and of religious liberty, and warmly admiring the catholic principles on which it is conducted, gladly avail themselves of the present opportunity of recording their unabated interest in its success, and their entire confidence in the talent, impartiality, and prudence with which it is conducted."

Moved by the Rev. J. P. MURSELL, and seconded by Mr J. NUNNLEY:—

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW.
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DR THOMAS PRICE,
AND REV. JOHN KELLY, LIVERPOOL.

DEAR SIR—Having been informed by different persons that you charge me with admitting a Baptist leaven into the pages of the *Eclectic Review*, I shall be obliged by your acquainting me with the evidence on which you found the statement. A general charge can only be met by a general denial; but if you will do me the justice to specify the particular papers to which you refer, I doubt not that I shall be able to satisfy every impartial man of the incorrectness of the allegation. I am utterly unconscious of the fault charged upon me, and cannot of course be expected quietly to submit to it.

In preferring this request, I ask only what I am entitled to demand, and am quite sure that your sense of justice will instantly and without reserve respond to my appeal.

Requesting the favour of an early reply,
I remain, dear sir, yours respectfully,
Rev. John Kelly, Liverpool. THOMAS PRICE.

Liverpool, Dec. 12th, 1844.

DEAR SIR—I embrace the first leisure moment I can command to reply to your received on Tuesday last.

The information which you have received respecting my complaints of the *Eclectic* is correct. I began to take the Review when you became proprietor and Editor in 1837, and for the reason you name, as well as on other grounds, I discontinued it at the close of 1842.

I am not singular in my opinion, as I am acquainted with several gentlemen very competent to form a judgment on the subject, who were at that time led to the same conclusion, and I have recently adverted to the subject as one of the grounds of my preference of the "British Quarterly."

To adduce the evidence on which the opinion rests, might be done without much difficulty. It would take time, however, which I can ill spare from other and more important engagements; nor, considering the course which events have taken during the last few months, have I any inclination to trouble myself with the subject. I retain my opinion, but decline to have anything further to do with it.

Yours very truly,
Dr Thomas Price. JOHN KELLY.

London, 14 Dec., 1844.

Sir—I am greatly surprised at the tenor of your reply to my communication of the 9th inst. The obviously reasonable nature of my request should have precluded the possibility of such a rejoinder. In ordinary cases it would have done so, and I can only express my regret that the notions of honour entertained by one bearing the ministerial character should be so far below those of the market and the Exchange. I have always been accustomed to regard the influence of Christianity as destructive of what is mean and disingenuous, and have looked to the Christian, and especially to the ministerial, character, as in intimate relation to whatever is high-minded and honourable. In your case, however, I have found the opposite of this, and can only account for the fact on the supposition of some sinister influence having been permitted to bias your judgment.

The case between us stands thus:—On undertaking the conduct of the *Eclectic Review* in 1837, I deliberately pledged myself to neutrality on the points in discussion between the two sections of the congregational body. That pledge I have repeated again and again, and, on the ground of my doing so, have obtained considerable support from your and my own denomination. This pledge you accuse me of violating, asserting that a Baptist leaven has been admitted into the pages of the *Eclectic*, on account of which you deem it expedient that another and denominational journal should be started. This charge you have preferred on various occasions, and to different parties; and now, when, in respectful terms, I ask you to point out the papers on which it is founded, you tell me that you can ill spare time to do so, though the evidence, you say, might be adduced "without much difficulty;" adding, "I retain my opinion, but to decline to have anything further to do with it." I am not accustomed to apply strong or offensive terms to the conduct of others, but must be permitted to remark, that, if you deem such a course consistent with self-respect, you entertain a much lower estimate of what is due to yourself than is common to honourable men.

If your time is so occupied as to preclude your specifying the evidence on which your charge is founded, the same fact should, and under ordinary circumstances would, have prevented your making it. At any rate you are bound—and to this I hold you—either to establish the truth of your statement, or to acknowledge its incorrectness. To the one or the other of these alternatives you are shut up by the rules of mere worldly honour, to say nothing of the higher obligations of Christian rectitude; and if you continue to decline both, I can feel no hesitation in charging you with having uttered a false and calumnious statement which admits not of proof, and which you are yet unwilling to retract. Prior to the receipt of your letter I gave you credit for manliness and integrity, but, as the matter now stands, I am reluctantly compelled to assign you very different qualities. The meanness that can persist in a false charge is even more criminal than its hasty utterance.

Sir, I am no denominational man; my brethren will bear witness on this point respecting me. Though a Baptist in opinion, many of my most intimate friendships are with members of your own body; and to them I confidently appeal, as well as to the pages of my journal, in disproof of your slander. There is not a sentence in the *Eclectic* which supports your statement. Indeed, so contrary is the fact, that in the *Baptist Magazine* for July last, the Editor called me to account for the opposite fault to that with which you charge me. In his review of the republication of Mr Foster's "Contributions," that gentleman remarks, referring to myself, "He may not be aware of it, but it has been thought that the *Eclectic* is, rather more than it should be, the speaking trumpet of the congregationalists. It has been thought, not only that there was internal evidence that a very large proportion of the articles were written by gentlemen more familiar with the societies and proceedings of the congregationalists than of the Baptists, but also that some publications of chief men among the congregationalists have received a larger measure of commendation than their intrinsic merit would have secured, had there not been in the minds of the reviewers a fraternal bias in their favour." Between yourself and the Baptist reviewer I leave the public to judge, for whose information I may state that, of the sixty-three gentlemen who have been, and still are, literary contributors to my journal, ten only are Baptists; whilst, of the remainder, eleven are tutors in collegiate institutions belonging to your own body, and sixteen are ministers occupying prominent stations amongst you.

That there may be sufficient reasons for the establishment of another Journal it is not for me to deny; but this I do affirm, without hesitation or fear, that the one you have adduced is untenable and false, meanly disingenuous, and in obvious contrast to all the facts of the case. I am not ignorant of the efforts which have been made to give currency to the slander, but am so conscious of rectitude, so free from the slightest sense of wrong, that I confidently leave the matter to the good sense and integrity of your brethren. I appeal from men like yourself, who, having done wrong, refuse to acknowledge their error, to the Pædobaptist denomination at large, assured that they will vindicate my integrity, whatever they may think of the soundness of my opinions or the wisdom of the course I have pursued.

I could name several of them—men of character and standing—whose friendship is my honour, as their confidence is a tower of strength, who have volunteered their testimony on this point; but I refrain, and shall content myself with sending copies of our correspondence to the *Patriot* and the *Nonconformist*.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
Rev. John Kelly. THOMAS PRICE.

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SCRIPTURISM, a Tract for the Times.
By JOSEPH FOX, Leeds.
Sold by KNIGHT, HEATON, and WALKER, Leeds; and by J. SNOW, Paternoster row, London.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.
THE COURSE of LECTURES, illustrative of the Principles and Objects of the Association, will be continued during the present week as follows:—
SOUTHWARK.—This Evening, Wednesday, December 18th, at the Public Lecture Room, Great Suffolk street, by Mr E. MIALI. Subject: "State Churches involve a Violation of the Rights of Citizenship."
TOWER HAMLETS.—On Thursday Evening, December 19th, at Trinity chapel, Philip street, Kingsland road, by Mr CARLILE. Subject: "The Voluntary System sanctioned by Jewish and by Christian Law."
Each Evening at Seven o'Clock.

THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

DEDICATION OF THE FIRST VOLUME.
With the publication of our present number we conclude the fourth year of our editorial labours; and with it we complete the first volume of our Journal. That volume we are anxious to dedicate to our friends and supporters as an expression of our gratitude for the unvarying kindness with which they have received our efforts to please and to profit; and still more, of our fixed determination, neither to relax in our efforts, nor to swerve from our purpose, to be instrumental in the diffusion of those great and glorious principles which we are humbly seeking to extend. How shall we address our friends in requesting their acceptance of this dedication? By what name shall we call them? How can we most correctly describe them? Shall we distinguish them by some political name? Shall we call them—whigs or Tories—conservatives or radicals—unionists or repealers? No—this would not be correct: for we have preserved our Journal from the polluting touch of mere political partisanship. We have never, in any instance, advocated any measure, because it was favourably regarded—perhaps as a stepping-stone to office—by any of the parties into which the community is politically divided. We have never sought to promote the interest of any party, and we never shall. Principles, not parties; measures, not men, have never ceased to be our motto; and we feel that this independent course is in accordance with sound principle and with true policy. And from this course we have no intention to deviate. We shall steadily persevere in diffusing those large and sound views of political science, which may extend the empire of knowledge and of public virtue—may repress the violence of popular fury, and control the despotism of rulers—teaching to each his proper station, and impressing on all their reciprocal dependence—we cannot, therefore, distinguish our friends by any political designation.

May we not address them by some ecclesiastical name? If we may not call them Episcopalians, or Presbyterians, or Independents, or Wesleyans, may we not address them as Nonconformists, or Dissenters? Even this would not suit—it would not be correct. It would identify us still with a party—it would not fairly represent our free, independent, unfettered position. We are the accredited organ of no organised body in the empire. We never obtained, indeed we never sought, the patronage of any ecclesiastical organisation. No "union"—no "association"—no "synod"—no "conference" do we officially represent. No minister of religion did we ever ask to explain our objects, and to enforce our claims from the pulpit, or in the church meeting. And what has been the result? We have not had ecclesiastical patronage—true; but equally true, we have had ecclesiastical independence. No ministerial junta dictates to us what and how we shall write on public questions; we receive no lectures in the "upper rooms" from a conclave of dissenting cardinals; it is not decided for us when we shall speak, and when we shall be silent, on questions relating to the "dissenting interest." Oh, no! we are left alone in our glory. We are placed in a position in which we can look at measures, and at men, connected with the management even of dissenting affairs, with the torch-light of truth in our hands—in which we can state what, in our judgment, ought to be reformed, "none daring to make us afraid." We have thus, as an advantage of our position, glanced at the question of reform in our charitable and philanthropic societies; and we hereby intimate our purpose thoroughly to investigate this important question. Some Journalist must enter on this department; and no pledged organ of these societies can be expected to enter on it. We shall advocate economy in the distribution of public funds, impartiality in the administration of their affairs, and immediate retrenchment in the amount of their administrative expenses. For the reasons we have specified—as we are the accredited organ of no ecclesiastical body—we cannot designate our friends by any ecclesiastical name. But there is a designation by which we can correctly describe them. FRIENDS OF FREEDOM! to you, to you by way of eminence, we dedicate our volume. Accept the votive offering. It comes from our heart of hearts. For you we designed it—for you we have conducted it: you have sustained it—to you we dedicate it.

Encouraged by past experience, we ask your future co-operation; and we know we shall obtain it. Never was the impression stronger, that we require an impartial and independent journal—a periodical, combining with a steady and unyielding attachment to principle, the utmost courtesy and candour toward those who differ—in which the cause of liberty and truth may be firmly maintained, and yet advocated in harmony with the mind of Christ—and in the pages of which, the piety of the Gospel may be strongly and amiably displayed. Such a journal we shall strenuously endeavour to make the *Christian Examiner*. We had purposed to explain, at some length, our plans and purposes for next year; but, on reflection, we deem it better to reserve this for our next number, and to make it a fair specimen of what we intend our journal to become. We may, however, state in general terms, that we have no change of principle to announce; and sure are we, that our readers wish for none. Nor shall we cease to advocate any of the great objects it was our original purpose to promote. Peace, as opposed to War—the cause of Scriptural Temperance—the Inviolability of Human Life, and the consequent necessity of a change in the Criminal Code of Nations—the Abolition of Monopolies in commerce and science—the Improvement of Prison Discipline—the Education of the Poor on liberal and not exclusive principles—the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade, all the world over: these, and kindred objects, have obtained, and shall obtain, our earnest attention. There is, however, one subject on which we have to announce an enlargement of our plans. From this date we shall keep permanently before our readers

SOME NEW ASPECTS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.
Let us briefly explain our meaning. Hitherto we have mainly advocated religious freedom, in reference to churches, in relation to the civil magistrate. We have advocated the right of all churches, of every name and through every land, to be emancipated from the degrading bondage of secular control—these churches, of course, receiving from the state no pecuniary support. This we shall continue to advocate. But may not churches and individuals be denuded of their rights by other masters than those who conduct secular government? May not popes and prelates, presbyteries and associations—yes, and even unions and conferences—effectually interfere with Christian rights? Yes; they may interfere, they have interfered. To guard against such interference—to warn of its danger—to oppose its first manifestations, shall be an unceasing aim in all our future efforts. Freedom is the word we inscribe on our banner; and around that banner we shall rally, far as we can, the brave and the free!

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM! We ask no personal favour. We have none to ask at your hands. We stand on the ground of principle. We have served you thus far "without fee or reward." We have an inward consciousness that, as conductors of a free, independent, impartial, fearless Journal, we have a moral right to your continued—yes, increased support. If you think the same, you will not only continue your support, but, by one grand effort, you will more than double our circulation.

We submit the following as the terms of publication; and from these there can be no deviation:—

1. The *Christian Examiner* is published on the 15th day of each month, and transmitted, by the post of the same day, to all subscribers.

2. Subscriptions (5s. annually) must be paid in advance. When not thus paid, in every instance 6s. will be charged. And no subscriptions will be received for a period of less than six months. New subscribers will please commence with January or July.

3. Advertisements, for which the charges are unusually moderate, must be paid before they can be inserted.
JOHN SNOW, 35, Paternoster row.

THE CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE.

AT A MEETING of MINISTERS resident in London and its vicinity, held in the Congregational Rooms, Blomfield street, December 6th, 1844,
The Rev. JAMES MATHESON, D.D., in the chair,

It was unanimously resolved:—

On the motion of the Rev. ALGERNON WELLS, Secretary of the Congregational Union; seconded by the Rev. J. J. Freeman, Secretary of the London Missionary Society:—
I. That, without designing in any degree to reflect on other existing or forthcoming periodicals advocating the principles of Evangelical Nonconformity, this meeting expresses with pleasure, its deliberate and unbiased conviction, that the *Congregational Magazine* is a work of the greatest general worth, and is the most authentic and complete existing repository of the facts which have transpired in connexion with the history of our denomination, during the last quarter of a century; that it is especially adapted to the present times, and entitled, by its Christian temper, its varied learning, and its decided advocacy of our denominational principles, to the increasing confidence and support of the congregational churches in Great Britain and in the Colonies.

On the motion of the Rev. JOHN STOUGHTON, of Kensington; seconded by the Rev. JOHN WOODWARD, of Tonbridge Chapel:—

II. That this meeting cheerfully records its opinion, that the *Congregational Magazine* has, during the years of its existence, rendered essential service to the sacred cause of religious freedom, by repelling attempts which have been made on the Christian liberties of nonconformists, by a consistent resistance to church rates, and to other political grievances, and by its decided opposition to church extension and exclusive education at the national expense; and that by its able advocacy it assisted to secure the abolition of the Test and Corporation Acts, and to effect the enactment of a general registration of births and deaths, independent of ecclesiastical services; while all persons who have laboured for the attainment of these and kindred objects are much indebted to the statistical facts and calculations published from time to time in that Journal, and that it has thereby laid the entire dissenting community under obligation, and entitled itself to the grateful support of the churches of our faith and order.

On the motion of the Rev. THOMAS JAMES, Secretary of the Irish Evangelical Society; seconded by the Rev. SAMUEL RANSOM, Classical Tutor of Hackney Academy:—

III. That while this Magazine has never received the full amount of support which it has deserved, the recent extension of our periodical literature has interfered with its circulation, and rendered an appeal on its behalf indispensable, in order to secure its efficient and lengthened continuance; and that this meeting would earnestly intreat the pastors and deacons of our churches, to render an act of tardy justice to this the earliest organ of our denomination, by recommending it, either from the pulpit during the present month, or at their next church meetings, and by adopting such other means as may appear suitable for extending its circulation, especially amongst the thoughtful and more educated portions of their congregations.

On the motion of the Rev. JOHN HUNT, Secretary of the Protestant Union; seconded by the Rev. EDWARD MANNERING, of Holywell Mount chapel:—

IV. That this meeting, satisfied with the manner in which this periodical has been conducted, derives additional pleasure from the conviction that arrangements are made by its gifted and laborious Editor, with a view to its decided improvement, and especially for adapting it more thoroughly to the wants and wishes of pious individuals, and of Christian families; and indulges the confident hope, that he will be generously sustained by the churches in his endeavours to advocate congregational interests in connexion with the extension of evangelical godliness amongst Christians of every community throughout the land.

On the motion of the Rev. JAMES CARLILE, of Hackney; seconded by the Rev. J. C. HARRISON, of Tottenham:—

V. That copies of these Resolutions, signed by the Rev. George Smith, the convener and secretary of this meeting, be forwarded to the pastors of our churches, and that they be inserted in the *Patriot* and *Nonconformist* Newspapers, and in other journals.
GEORGE SMITH, Secretary.

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JOHN BLACKBURN,
WILLIAM STERN PALMER, } Secretaries.
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